

**MINNESOTA HISTORY**  
**A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE**

VOL. 9, No. 1  
WHOLE NO. 49  
MARCH, 1928



## DANIEL WEBSTER AND THE WEST<sup>1</sup>

On the supposition that an audience will appreciate a reminder of the sequence of significant events in the career of Daniel Webster let us recall these facts: that he was born in New Hampshire on January 18, 1782; that after education at Dartmouth College, he was admitted to the bar in 1805; that he practiced law in New Hampshire, chiefly at Portsmouth, until 1817; that meanwhile he served two terms in the federal House of Representatives, from 1813 to 1817; that he removed to Boston in 1817 and thereafter resided permanently in Massachusetts; that he was again a Congressman from 1823 to 1827; that he became a United States senator from Massachusetts in 1827; that his service as senator was interrupted by a first term as secretary of state under Harrison and Tyler from 1841 to 1843; that he became senator again in 1845, and again interrupted such service by becoming secretary of state under Fillmore in 1850; and that he died while holding that office in October, 1852.

At least a general knowledge of his well-known career as a great lawyer, a surpassing orator, an industrious legislator, an adroit diplomat, an expounder and defender of the constitution, an outstanding exponent of nationalism, author of the still reverberating phrase, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable," is assumed in the present discussion of Daniel Webster's relation to the West and its problems.

Daniel Webster was born just at the close of the Revolutionary War into a family of adventurous and hardy pioneers who lived on the then frontier of New Hampshire facing a wilderness extending northward through unbroken forests to settlements on the Canadian St. Lawrence. His boyhood and

<sup>1</sup> Read on January 9 as the annual address of the seventy-ninth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society. *Ed.*

youth thus enabled him to have an understanding appreciation of one of the most pervasive influences in the development of American life — the frontier — because he and his were a part of it.

The political opinions of this young man were moulded in his formative years by another outstanding fact — that his father, a Revolutionary soldier and officer under Washington, was a pronounced Federalist, an advocate of the new national Constitution as a member of the New Hampshire constitutional convention, a supporter of Federalist policies founded upon the nationalistic interpretation of constitutional powers of the new government. Is it not reasonable to find herein an explanation — the incline of the twig as later it was to grow — of the fact that even during his opposition to "Mr. Madison's war" Webster's ingrained and robust nationalism did not permit him to share the spirit of sectionalism and disunion displayed by many New England public men? An inherited temperament such as his, with the characteristic training of his environment, would avail to prevent party Federalism from degenerating into factional and rebellious localism even under serious and continued grievances.

A curious and little-known indication of the early views held by Webster is found in a college exercise written on December 15, 1800, while he was a student at Dartmouth and not yet nineteen years of age. It is as follows:

*Question.* Would it be advantageous to the United States to extend their territories?

It might be supposed that a Republic, whose territorial jurisdiction encircles a more extensive portion of the earth's surface than falls to the share of almost any sovereignty in Europe, would never exert her energies for her dominion. It is true, on general maxims, that our country is sufficiently large for a Republican government; but if, by an inconsiderable extension of our limits, we can avail ourselves of great natural advantages, otherwise unattainable, does not sound policy dictate the measure? We reduce the question to a single point: would not the acquisition of the Floridas be advantageous to the United States? Here let it be

remembered, that that part of the territory of our government, which lies north of Florida, and west of the Alleghany Mountains, including the northwestern territory, Tennessee, Kentucky, and a part of Georgia, is, by far, the most fertile part of the Union. Nowhere does the soil produce in such exuberance; nowhere is the climate so mild and agreeable. The agricultural productions of this quarter, must then, in a few years, become immense, far exceeding those of all the Atlantic States. The next inquiry is, how shall this superabundance be disposed of? How shall the lumber, wheat, and cotton of this country be conveyed to a West India or European market? The only practicable method of transportation is down the Mississippi and the other rivers that run into the Mexican Gulf; and we have here to reflect, that those rivers all run through a country owned by the king of Spain,—a monarch, capricious as a child, and versatile as the wind; and who has it in his power, whenever interest, ambition, or the whims of his fancy dictate, to do us incalculable injuries by prohibiting our western brethren from prosecuting commerce through his dominions. Suppose the Spanish sovereign should, this day, give orders to the fortress of New Orleans to suffer no American vessel to pass up or down the river: this would be an affliction not to be borne by those citizens who live along the banks of the Mississippi; but what steps could our government take in the affair? Must they sit still and fold their hands, while such an intolerable embargo presses our commerce? This would be an ill expedient. We might as well give Spain our whole western territory, as suffer her to control the commerce of it. The only way we could turn ourselves, in this case, would be to declare war against Spain, and vindicate our claims to free navigation by force of arms. Here, then, we are under necessity of extending our territories by possessing ourselves of all the country adjacent those rivers, necessary for our commerce, or of giving up the idea of ever seeing Western America a flourishing country. Therefore, since we are liable every day, to be reduced to the necessity of seizing on Florida, in a hostile manner, or of surrendering the rights of commerce, it is respectfully submitted, whether it would not be proper for our government to enter into some convention with the king of Spain, by which the Floridas should be ceded to the United States.<sup>2</sup>

A received general maxim that the United States in 1800 was sufficiently large for a republican government! A recognition that the then West, between the Floridas, the Missis-

<sup>2</sup> *Writings and Speeches*, 15:485 (National edition, Boston, 1903).

sippi, the Great Lakes, and the Allegheny Mountains was the most fertile part of the Union and that its rich commerce must have national security! An unquestioning implication that the United States could properly acquire territory, with the reservation that sound policy required the extension of limits to be inconsiderable! Affirmation of these principles and policies made in 1800 may well supply clues to the development of Webster's relation to the West throughout his political life.

It is a curious fact that extensive literary remains yield no satisfactory account of Webster's contemporary opinions concerning the revolutionary acquisition of the vast Louisiana territory under Jefferson or concerning its organization as an integral part of the Union under Madison and Monroe. True, at times of critical decisions Webster was not a member of Congress, but one would greatly like to know whether he expressed agreement or disagreement with violent protests made in the name of New England by Representative Josiah Quincy and by President Timothy Dwight of Yale. Nor have we positive and contemporary evidence on Webster's relation to movements culminating in the Hartford Convention and its almost pathetic demands and failures. We can only infer that he was like the majority of the people of New England at that time, really antagonistic to disunion while maintaining partisan opposition to measures detrimental to sectional interests.

It will be recalled that Webster was a member of Congress from 1813 to 1817. During that service he contributed much to shaping legislation for a second Bank of the United States, showing special interest in the maintenance of a nationally regulated currency based on specie and desirable for all sections. Likewise he collaborated with Calhoun, his friend and fellow nationalist, as he truly was until about 1825, to secure a comprehensive system of internal improvements at federal expense. When Madison vetoed the act providing for the use of the bank bonus and dividends to pay for internal improvements, Webster consistently voted against sustaining the

veto. In 1825, when he was again in the House, he favored appropriations for the Cumberland Road, declaring that as a matter of principle he would vote to aid internal improvements wherever they might be needed for national interests and especially wherever they would help the sale and settlement of public lands. His opinions had not changed on the constitutional power to make appropriations for objects of internal improvement. It mattered not to him whether benefits were greater for inhabitants of New Hampshire or on the Missouri. Said he: "When going into a system of improvement, the House has simply to inquire, where is improvement most wanted? . . . Wherever it was most needed, there it must first be made. . . . Works surely may be denominated national which are of extensive importance, although the benefit may not be strictly universal. . . . Congress had virtually said to the people of the West, that the road should be carried on till it reached them all. . . . The people consider it as under pledge; and the present bill, in carrying on the road for eighty miles, does but carry Congress eighty miles further towards the redeeming of its pledge."<sup>3</sup> Asserting that the great object of the government as to the public lands was to get them settled, with no great expectation of large revenues from their sale, he favored fixing prices at a rate low enough to encourage rapid settlement but not so low as to stimulate speculation. "For his own part, he was in favor of letting population take its own course; he should experience no feeling of mortification if any of his constituents liked better to settle on the Kansas, or the Arkansas, or the Lord knows where, within our territory; let them go and be happier if they could." A new and fertile country "presents the most alluring of all prospects to a young and laboring man; it gives him a freehold; it offers to him weight and respectability in society; and, above all, it presents to him a prospect of a permanent provision for

<sup>3</sup> *Writings and Speeches*, 14:93-98.

his children. Sir, these are inducements which never were resisted, and never will be; and, were the whole extent of country filled with population up to the Rocky Mountains, these inducements would carry that population forward to the shores of the Pacific Ocean." <sup>4</sup>

On January 18, 1830, Webster presented to the Senate with favorable comments a petition from a South Carolina canal and railroad company for a federal subscription to its stock, doing this because senators of that state were known to oppose the policy of such action. A touch of the dramatic was seen on the following day when Senator Robert Y. Hayne indicted New England for alleged attempts to retard migration to the West by the maintenance of illiberal land policies and to discriminate against the West by protective tariffs. With other features of the famous debates thus precipitated and renewed in 1832 and 1833, leading off into vital issues of nullification and secession, this address will not be concerned. But it must be noted that Webster's treatment of land and tariff policies was not only a vindication of New England, but an exposition of broadly national policies. Basing his argument upon the principle that public lands were held in trust by the government to be administered as a common fund for all the people of the Union and not merely for the benefit of settlers, Webster justified the sale of lands only after surveys but as rapidly as they would be absorbed by actual settlers at low minimum prices. He said:

From the very origin of the government, these Western lands, and the just protection of those who had settled or should settle on them, have been the leading objects in our policy, and have led to expenditures, both of blood and treasure, not inconsiderable; not, indeed, exceeding the importance of the object, and not yielded grudgingly; but yet entitled to be regarded as great, though necessary sacrifices, made for high, proper ends. The Indian title has been extinguished at the expense of many millions. Is that nothing? There is still a much more material consideration. These

<sup>4</sup> *Writings and Speeches*, 14: 90.

colonists, if we are to call them so, in passing the Alleghanies, did not pass beyond the care and protection of their own government. Wherever they went, the public arm was still stretched over them. A parental government at home was still ever mindful of their condition and their wants, and nothing was spared which a just sense of their necessities required.

Virginia made her cession . . . upon the express condition that the lands so ceded should be considered as a common fund for the use and benefit of such of the United States as had become or should become members of the confederation, Virginia inclusive, and should be faithfully and *bonâ fide* disposed of for that purpose, and for no other use or purpose whatever. The grants from other States were on similar conditions. . . . These grants were all made on three substantial conditions or trusts. First, that the ceded territories should be formed into States, and admitted in due time into the Union, with all the rights belonging to other States; secondly, that the lands should form a common fund, to be disposed of for the general benefit of all the States; and thirdly, that they should be sold and settled, at such time and in such manner as Congress should direct.

. . . The States had looked to this territory, perhaps too sanguinely, as a fund out of which means were to come to defray the expenses of the war. It had been received as a fund, as a fund Congress had been bound to apply it. To have given it away, would have defeated all the objects which Congress and particular States had had in view in asking and obtaining the cession, and would have plainly violated the conditions which the ceding States attached to their own grants.

The honorable member from South Carolina . . . tells us we are charged with the crime of a narrow and selfish policy; of endeavoring to restrain emigration to the West, and, having that object in view, of maintaining a steady opposition to Western measures and Western interests.

I deny that, in any part of her history, at any period of the government, or in relation to any leading subject, New England has manifested such hostility as is charged upon her. On the contrary, I maintain that, from the day of the cession of the territories by the States to Congress, no portion of the country has acted either with more liberality or more intelligence, on the subject of the public lands in the new States, than New England.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Writings and Speeches*, 5: 251, 255, 261, 262.

In the following years Webster repeatedly urged that a liberal policy and sympathy with its interests was due to the West — bringing it nearer to the East by development of communications, granting rights of preëmption to actual settlers on public lands, and graduating the lands in price. In January, 1839, he declared: "Let it be remembered that our trust is to sell and settle, not to hold permanently. It is to sell and settle, and to apply the proceeds to purposes beneficial to all the people of the United States. I am against all notion of permanent holding."<sup>6</sup>

Attention must now be directed to the fact that Webster's interest in the West was not merely political and national, but also personal and financial. In 1836 a fever of land speculation was raging, which affected many men in public life. In association with others — such as Cass, Choate, and Caleb Cushing — and also on his own account, Webster invested heavily in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Agents, including his son, Fletcher, were employed, who acquired large farming tracts and town sites on partial payments and credit. In the common lot, with the panic of 1837, hopes of large profits were converted into losses and burdensome debts from which Webster never was able to free himself. In 1837 he made an extensive trip through Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Louisville, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Madison (Indiana), Alton, Chicago, Toledo, Detroit, and Buffalo. Politically the trip raised hopes that he might become the preferred presidential candidate of western Whigs. Financially it served only to involve him more deeply, for he prepared to develop large farms in Illinois near Springfield and between Lasalle and Peru. The latter place he called Salisbury, after his native town, and he had his agent, Ray Thomas, and his son, Fletcher, live there. As late as 1845 Webster entered into a speculative scheme with Rantoul, Choate, and Cushing to get control of lands on the

<sup>6</sup> *Writings and Speeches*, 8: 264.

upper Mississippi in order to cut timber there for sale in cities lower down the river. The St. Croix and Lake Superior Mineral Company was chartered, but titles were dubious, a spring flood discouraged operations, and the enterprise failed.

Territorial expansion, or "manifest destiny," did not find a supporter in Webster. He was convinced that representative republican institutions, dependent for their vitality upon the strength of local governments but coördinated into a harmonious national system, would break down of their own weight if extended over a vast continental domain with inevitable divergent and sectional interests. For this and other reasons, in the period between his resignation as secretary of state and his return to the Senate, he agitated, spoke, and organized opposition to the annexation of Texas. On that issue, as much as on questions of a United States bank and the tariff, he had parted company with President Tyler, who was an ardent expansionist and had begun to urge annexation. After March 5, 1845, Webster was obliged to treat the acquisition of Texas as an accomplished fact. Yet he did not fail to expound the grounds of opposition by way of formal protest against both the policy and the method of its attainment. Remarks made in the Senate on December 22, 1845, include the following:

In the first place, I have, on the deepest reflection, long ago come to the conclusion, that it is of very dangerous tendency and doubtful consequences to enlarge the boundaries of this country, or the territories over which our laws are now established. There must be some limit to the extent of our territory, if we would make our institutions permanent. And this permanency forms the great subject of all my political efforts, the paramount object of my political regard. The government is very likely to be endangered, in my opinion, by a further enlargement of the territorial surface, already vast, over which it is extended.

In the next place, I have always wished that this country should exhibit to the nations of the earth the example of a great, rich, and powerful republic, which is not possessed by a spirit of aggrandizement. It is an example, I think, due from us to the world, in favor of the character of republican government.

In the next place, Sir, I have to say, that while I hold, with as much integrity, I trust, and faithfulness, as any citizen of this country, to all the original arrangements and compromises under which the Constitution under which we now live was adopted, I never could, and never can, persuade myself to be in favor of the admission of other States into the Union as slave States, with the inequalities which were allowed and accorded by the Constitution to the slave-holding States then in existence. I do not think that the free States ever expected, or could expect, that they would be called on to admit more slave States, having the unequal advantages arising to them from the mode of apportioning representation under the existing Constitution.<sup>7</sup>

Principles such as those just quoted naturally led Webster to outspoken criticism of the administration of Polk for bringing on the war with Mexico, as well as for the methods of its conduct, although he refrained from merely factious opposition and gave one of his sons to an untimely death in the war. Acquisition of territory beyond the limits of Texas would, he foresaw, prove an apple of discord to proslavery and anti-slavery interests, a danger to the harmony and even to the existence of the Union; therefore such expansion he deplored and resisted. Although supporting the Wilmot Proviso, he deemed it an insufficient palliative, and insisted that sound policy required abstinence from further acquisition of territory by war or by treaty. In March, 1847, after resolutions expressing this policy had been voted down in the Senate, he recorded his opinions in remarks including the following brief statements:

It is due to the best interests of the country, to its safety, to peace and harmony, and to the well-being of the Constitution, to declare at once, to proclaim now, that we desire no new States, nor territory to form new States out of, as the end of conquest. For one, I enter into this declaration with all my heart. We want no extension of territory, we want no accession of new States. The country is already large enough. I do not speak of any cession which may be made in the establishment of boundaries, or of the acquisition of a port or two on the Pacific, for the benefit of navigation and commerce. But I speak of large territories, ob-

<sup>7</sup> *Writings and Speeches*, 7: 56.

tained by conquest, to form States to be annexed to the Union; and I say I am opposed to such acquisition altogether. I am opposed to the prosecution of the war for any such purposes.

Sir, I fear we are not yet arrived at the beginning of the end. I pretend to see but little of the future, and that little affords no gratification. All I can scan is contention, strife, and agitation. . . . Will the North consent to a treaty bringing in territory subject to slavery? Will the South consent to a treaty bringing in territory from which slavery is excluded? . . . We appear to me to be rushing upon perils headlong, and with our eyes wide open.\*

Consistently and with clear prevision of momentous consequences, Webster spoke and voted against the ratification of the treaty terminating the Mexican War because it added vast domains to the national territory and left open to controversy the status of that area with respect to slavery or freedom. Once more, as in the problems of Texas, he had to accept defeat and turn to problems arising from accomplished facts.

In another direction also Webster had occasion to show his conception of sound national policy with respect to western expansion. By agreement with Great Britain, after 1818 the Oregon country, without defined boundaries on the north, had been open to joint occupation of British and American citizens. Lord Ashburton had hoped in 1842 to obtain from the United States an agreement to make the Columbia River from its mouth to its intersection with the forty-ninth parallel the boundary between British and American Oregon, and he was instructed by his government not to accept a boundary less favorable. On the other hand the American government stood committed to accepting a boundary extending on the forty-ninth parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. One learns from Webster's letters that he was interested in retaining Oregon south of the forty-ninth parallel only for the sake of having good commercial ports on the north Pacific coast. He depreciated the value of the Oregon country, comparing the Columbia unfavorably as to productivity and com-

\* *Writings and Speeches*, 9: 259-261.

merce with the St. John River in northern Maine. He was willing to accept a division of the area that would simply give the United States good ports on Puget Sound and territory south to the Columbia on the west of the Cascade Mountains. Thereupon President Tyler confidentially proposed to let Great Britain come south to the line of the Columbia if that power would assist the United States in getting from Mexico six degrees of latitude below the forty-second parallel, so that northern California, with San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay, and northern New Mexico east to Texas would be under American sovereignty. Webster was by no means averse to acquiring the Bay of San Francisco with a small amount of adjacent territory for the benefit of American commerce, but he could not indorse substantial territorial expansion. Therefore he and Ashburton quickly agreed to postpone so difficult and novel a proposition on the plea that Tyler's suggestion would delay and might defeat critical negotiations on other more pressing questions that were to be included in the treaty of 1842.

When Webster again, this time in 1846 as senator, touched the Oregon question, it was to urge compromise on the line of the forty-ninth parallel, with a concession giving Great Britain all of Vancouver Island and access to her ports through the Strait of San Juan de Fuca. The value of the Oregon country he again maintained to be greatly overestimated, both in its resources and because of its remoteness from the remainder of the states. He could not see with prophetic vision that laborious overland journeys by hardy pioneers in creaking wagon trains or almost equally dangerous voyages around Cape Horn would soon give place to railway trips assisted by magnetic telegraphs — and still less the more facile means of communication now almost a commonplace in our generation. Coincident with his opposition to further annexations in the Southwest, he developed the thesis that the Pacific coast as a whole might better become a separate Pacific republic, peopled by

Americans, living in sympathetic relations with the United States, but shaping its own destiny and not complicating the enormously difficult sectional problems of a nation already too large for representative political institutions.

The American people and the dominant political leaders of his day rejected Webster's counsel against western expansion, responding instead to the plea of "manifest destiny" in harmony with the political desires of the proslavery party. But who may gainsay the validity of Webster's fears lest sectional strife disrupt the Union, when the march of events from 1846 to 1861 led with fatalistic directness to a great civil war? The surge of passions let loose by the issues of 1850 so alarmed this great-hearted lover of the Union that he joined Henry Clay in the heroic work of enacting the Compromise of 1850, perchance to prevent, but actually only to postpone for a decade, fratricidal war.

And what may one justly say in a final summary on Daniel Webster and the West? Is it not that here was first a great conservative in his ideas about political, legal, and social institutions? Then, that he was also a great nationalist, incapable of narrow localism and sectionalism? Next, that the depth and sincerity of his nationalism both led him to fear the effects of continental expansion and commanded his loyalty to his beloved Union even under conditions which he had striven to prevent? And finally, that he was so imbued with the spirit of a pioneer builder, so endowed with expansive sympathy, that he was incapable of being ungenerous to the West?

CLYDE A. DUNIWAY

CARLETON COLLEGE  
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

## BACKGROUNDS OF MINNESOTA<sup>1</sup>

There is an old saying that one should not look a gift horse in the mouth. I suppose that that saying is especially applicable during the holiday season. But I must confess that this subject, "Backgrounds of Minnesota," was given to me. I must confess further that I have looked this gift horse in the mouth — in fact I have looked it all over. And the more I have looked it over, the more hopelessly large it has become as the subject of an address. For more than seventy-eight years the state historical society has been collecting material on Minnesota history. The source material on this subject constitutes a large library. So it is obvious that in this presence, before a body of men and women who have for a lifetime shown an interest in Minnesota history, a busy man like myself cannot hope to pose successfully as a teacher. I cannot expect to add to your knowledge; I shall try not to subtract from it. Perhaps all we can hope to do is to gather up a few casual impressions, and find some joy and perhaps a little profit in glancing over the foothills of the topic.

While this theme has the defect of being too comprehensive, it certainly has the merit of allowing a man to talk about almost anything he cares to. So I am going to commence by calling your attention to the fact that by using the word "backgrounds," we are borrowing a term from the field of art and applying it in the field of history.

In art the purpose of the background is to bring out the salient points of a picture, the essential character of the object or person portrayed. In a good picture the background is secondary. It never receives the emphasis. In fact, it is always

<sup>1</sup> This address was delivered by the Governor of Minnesota at the seventy-ninth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul on January 9, 1928. *Ed.*

purposely subdued in order that the subject of the picture may stand out in bolder relief. It is not considered good art to make a picture an exact reproduction of the person or thing portrayed. Exact reproduction is left to photography and there is a great difference between photography and art. And lest this statement should bring a storm of protest from those engaged in the business of photography, let me hasten to say that the photographer of today has added art to photography. He has learned to correct, to subdue, to idealize — to accomplish on sensitized paper what the painter achieves on canvas. His product is no longer a true photograph — it is an art with a photographic basis. Exact reproduction is not sought by the true artist. In the Louvre is a canvas by Denner, who took four years to paint it in order to make it microscopically exact as to every line and wrinkle and in every detail. Artistically it is a failure. A broad sketch by Van Dyck is a hundredfold more powerful than Denner's detailed portraiture.

As a people, we in America have never been very strong for backgrounds. We have not asked about a man's descent nor inquired into his lineage. In fact, it has not always been safe to inquire too closely into antecedents. Pioneer conditions have made us, and thus far have kept us, democratic. Blue blood has meant nothing here. Most of our leaders have come out of log huts and the wilderness, with racial strains so completely mixed as to puzzle and confound the eugenist.

However, it should not be supposed that the biological background has no meaning. Mendel, by the breeding of peas, established a law of heredity. By artificial selection Luther Burbank wrought wonders with flowers and fruits. The breeder of livestock every day places his faith in the biological background. The same divinity which in baffling and mysterious ways discloses itself in fruit and flower and beast, works out its purpose in human life and character as well. History, no less than biology, is replete with facts establishing the significance of backgrounds.

In discussing the backgrounds of Minnesota, it is perhaps not necessary to stress the geologic and physical factors. Nature built the great divide upon whose surface Minnesota rests. If today we plan and dream of a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence waterway to the Atlantic Ocean and a navigable channel to the Gulf of Mexico, it is because Minnesota forms a part of a roof from which water flows northward to Hudson Bay, eastward to the St. Lawrence, and southward by way of the Mississippi. Two-thirds of the state is a rolling plain consisting of fertile soil easily cultivated. That fact has had large influence in making Minnesota one of the granary states of the Union.

From the days of La Salle to the present revival of river traffic the Father of Waters has had a mighty influence on the history of this region. If today we welcome thousands of tourists who come here to find recreation and health, it is because glacial drifts gemmed the state with ten thousand lakes. Likewise the pine forests, which have played so prominent a part in our history, were the gift of nature. Soil and climate, water power and lakes, forests and mineral wealth, these are the dower of ages. A hundred million years, the geologist tells us, have gone into the trappean rocks and Cambrian sandstone of the St. Croix gorge. The fossiliferous limestone about the Twin Cities is said to be at least two-thirds as old.

Anyone may call Minnesota young if he wishes; but in doing so, he should be careful to define his terms. For he refers to Minnesota as a state, and not to the backgrounds of the commonwealth.

What about the human backgrounds of Minnesota? In this connection also, it is important to get the perspective, to keep the proper focus upon our state's history.

I suppose the average man who lives here thinks of Minnesota as being about seventy years old — a comparatively young state, as states go. To most people, I believe it is safe to say,

the history of Minnesota presents a very limited picture: the front ranks are formed of little children new to earth and sky, behind them come the bright faces of youth, then the men and women in middle life, and finally the old people who symbolize the beginnings.

But not these, nor even the earlier pioneers whose dust is now mingled with that of the prairies, represent the real beginnings of Minnesota. It is important to bear in mind that back of the state, even back of the territory, are two centuries of exploration by the French and English. This period is worthy of study, for it is filled with romance and with heroic and daring figures. And beyond these two centuries, are thousands of years in which the savage held universal sway.

One of our historians—I do not recall whether it was Thwaites or Fiske or Parkman—observed that in a sense the history of the United States is a replica of the history of Europe, and the history of each state is a miniature reproduction of the history of the nation.

In this connection some writers upon Minnesota history observe that it too has an ancient, a medieval, and a modern period. The ancient might be said to comprise the ages of undisputed Indian occupancy; the medieval, the period of French and English discoveries and explorations, culminating in a contest between the two powers for possession of the region; the modern, a century of settlement and permanent occupancy by the white man.

Books and books have been written about the Indians, whose possession of this region was for thousands of years unchallenged. Among them were stalwart characters who belied the saying that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian." In contesting the westward march of the white man, they were not only within their rights. They followed the "rules of the game" which had prevailed among white men and all other men in all the ages since man became the fighting, exploiting, conquering animal that he is. In refusing to adapt

themselves to the ways of the white man's civilization, too, the Indians were within their rights. Assuming that European culture was superior, there was no duty on the part of the Indian to accept it. There are points in which the philosophy of the nonresisting Oriental is superior to our own, at least if we are to use the principles of the founder of Christianity as a measuring stick. But that does not lead the Oriental to seek to force his philosophy upon us, because, unlike us Europeans and Americans of European descent, he has the tolerance and the decency to let every people choose its own way of life.

As a result of the white man's insistence on attaining what he, not modestly, calls his "manifest destiny," the Indian was driven to less desirable hunting grounds farther west; but before he left he wrote his name upon the map of Minnesota. Anoka, Chaska, Eyota, Isanti, Mankato, Mendota, Minnetonka, Owatonna — all bear witness that our state was once the home of the red man. Indeed the name of the state itself, "Cloudy Waters," is still written in the Indian language, a tell-tale record in the chain of title proclaiming for all time to whom Minnesota originally belonged.

The French explorers and priests who first came here were daring, adventurous men, "made of whale-bone and dynamite." Radisson and Groseilliers were probably the first white men known to the Indians. They held councils with the Sioux and the Chippewa, and appear to have been on Prairie Island in the Mississippi, near where Red Wing now stands. In 1680 Father Hennepin descended the Great River and named the falls he found after his patron saint, "St. Anthony." He had been dispatched by La Salle to explore the upper part of the Father of Waters.

This period of the French explorers is a great epoch. It thrills by its daring explorations and entices by its discoveries. Destiny greatly turned upon the fact that these bold adven-

turers did not bring wives and families. In most cases they had no wives. They had no ambition to establish settlements. They were motivated mostly by the desire to explore, to trade, and to take possession of the country in the name of the king of France.

But, failing to establish homes, they also failed to take root. In this they were in striking contrast to the home-building, domestic Englishmen, who, when they came to America, settled and remained. In our day of much questioning relative to domestic relations and home life, does not this historic contrast suggest that civilization and survival inhere in the home as an institution rather than in the individual, no matter how daring his exploits may be?

Although they did not stay, the French explorers left a rich heritage of accomplishments in the discoveries they made and in the names they wrote into the history of the state. Groseilliers and Radisson, Du Luth and Hennepin, Le Sueur, La Perrière, and La Vérendrye — these are only a few at random among many others that should be cited and long remembered.

Finally followed the period of settlement, of territorial organization, and statehood. First came the descendants of the original English colonists, with their wives, their children, their horses, cattle, and equipment. Then, in the forties and fifties, came the first Germans and Scandinavians, to be followed by great numbers of their countrymen after the Civil War. In the southern part of the state they broke the prairies, built villages, and established cities. Up north they felled great forests of white and Norway pine.

Minnesota was the meeting-place of the Puritans of two continents. For the Yankees from New England and the immigrants from Scandinavia had much in common, which probably accounts for the ease with which these two strains of Nordic stock have fused and blended here. The Scandi-

navians were easily assimilated because they found in the earlier settlers of English stock their own folk, people having the same puritanical conceptions and outlook, the same piety, the same frugality, the same habits of industry, and the same terrible earnestness.

It now seems probable that Scandinavian explorers penetrated this region before the French came, even before Columbus discovered America. Into the question of the authenticity of the Kensington rune stone I cannot enter. I must leave that problem to the archeologists, the linguists, and those who have access to the old manuscripts and the time and opportunity to study them. I have read Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand's argument, and as a layman have been impressed with it. It appears that as early as 1362, a hundred and thirty years before Christopher Columbus sighted the shores of San Salvador, eight Swedes and twenty-two Norwegians penetrated far into the interior of the continent, into the heart of what is now Minnesota, and left their record on a stone, which more than five hundred years later was dug out from under the roots of a tree on Emil Ohman's farm in Salem Township, Douglas County.

I believe the stone is genuine. But whether it is genuine or not, we owe Mr. Holand a debt of gratitude for his patient researches; we owe him moral and financial support in his efforts to pursue his studies further in order that the truth may be established. He has at least shown that there is opportunity to find historic facts no less in the soil of Minnesota than in the ashes of Pompeii and Ninevah. His deciphering of the old runes of the Nordic people is just as fascinating and even as profitable to those who are interested in the past of this region as the discovery of the Rosetta stone was to the students of Egypt's hieroglyphics. If Mr. Holand's contentions are confirmed, there will be added another chapter to Minnesota's story, already replete with daring adventures, heroic episodes, and noble characters.

The people of Minnesota should know its history; not only the chapters which bring pride and reassurance, but the darker chapters as well, even those which tell of political trickery, false leadership, and the ruthless exploitation of a rich domain. There are important lessons and priceless values in that story.

The fact seems to be that New England has captured American history. The Massachusetts tradition too long has permeated our national life. The year 1620 has become a mystic date and the "Mayflower" the nation's argosy. Puritanism has been our baptismal cult.

It is well, of course, that we should know as much as possible of America's origins. But is it not true that America had its beginning no less upon the western prairies than along the Atlantic coast? In a broader sense is not our history the record of a continuing beginning? In this country, almost every decade has begun a new epoch, so many have been the events that have profoundly influenced the nation's destiny. And no episode has done more to make America typically what it is than the winning of the West.

Here is where we live. Every day we walk these streets. Most of us will ultimately lie in this soil. Our children will inherit this land. Why should we not know, and teach our children, its history? I am not one lightly to urge that subjects be added to the curricula of our schools and colleges. But it does seem to me that somewhere in our school courses, room should be found for an adequate presentation of Minnesota's history.

Here, for example, is Wabasha Street, on which many of us walk every day. How much of richness it adds to one's thoughts and daily life to know that Wabasha Street was named after a prominent Indian chieftain. How much interest it adds to one's daily life to know that Robert Street is named after one of the pioneer merchant traders in the state. How much it adds to one's motor tours in the southern part of Minnesota to know that Olmsted County recalls the name

of David Olmsted, who long traded with the Winnebago Indians, was the first mayor of St. Paul, and a charter member of the Minnesota Historical Society.

It is worth hours of any one's time and study to become acquainted with Joseph Renshaw Brown, who was an Indian trader, one of the founders of Minnesota territory, and at all times a man of great native ability and commanding influence. Henry H. Sibley, Henry M. Rice, Alexander Ramsey, among many others who might be mentioned, should be known intimately to every school child in the state, for they were men well worth knowing — strong, clear-headed, patient, fruitful in accomplishment.

How much it adds to one's pleasure in showing guests and tourists about to know what an important place Fort Snelling was in this region in an early day. It was a military fortification, a trading post, the center of a settlement, a rendezvous for all, and a place where the authorities had to deal with illicit sale of liquor to the Indians. And so one might go from point to point in the state and find a wealth of material.

These facts are well known to you who have had a special interest in Minnesota history. They should be better known to the average citizen, to the man on the street. James Harvey Robinson has told us that our special knowledge today needs to be brought to the people, to be humanized and democratized. We should do for every historic spot what the poet Longfellow did for Minnehaha Falls. Longfellow never saw the place, but by letting his imagination play upon it, by putting it into song, he universalized it. The historic record is so rich in daring, in heroism, and in human interest, that it awaits the poet, the dramatist, and the romancer to lift it into the light and to color it with feeling and imagination.

How can we expect this to be done if we ourselves remain ignorant of our state's history, and if we allow our children to grow up unmindful of and indifferent to Minnesota's

builders? Only those who know the privations and sacrifices of the pioneer men and women who made Minnesota what it is today can appreciate its genius and foresee its greater future. Only those who know something of our commonwealth's past can sincerely enter into Sidney Smith's echo of Ovid when he sang:

The good of ancient times let others state,  
I think it lucky I was born so late.

THEODORE CHRISTIANSON

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

## THE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF THE GRAND PORTAGE<sup>1</sup>

Few areas within the boundaries of Minnesota are of greater historical interest than the region surrounding the Grand Portage, which long before the first white man visited the area had doubtless been used as the best means of reaching navigable water from Lake Superior. Dr. Solon J. Buck has written a most interesting account of the history of the portage,<sup>2</sup> and interest stimulated by this article led the writer to give particular attention to the region over which the portage passes. During the summer of 1924 some of the high bluffs overlooking the trail were climbed and some interesting facts regarding the location of the portage were observed. In 1927 the work of the Minnesota Geological Survey required the detailed mapping of this area. Advantage was taken of this opportunity to study the location of the portage relative to the geologic and topographic features of the region. As a result of this work the accompanying topographic and geologic map was prepared, which brings out various points more clearly than can words alone. The map also locates the trail more accurately than any other published map.<sup>3</sup>

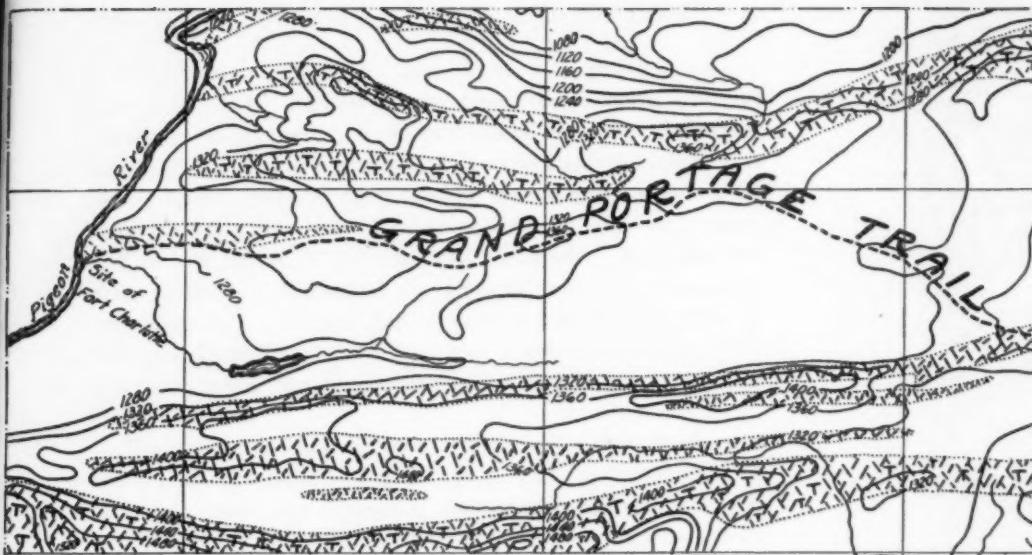
The portage furnishes an interesting example of the effect of the topography and geology of a region upon human activity and thus upon the course of history. A consideration of the facts which determined the location of the trail necessarily takes one back far beyond human history to the history of the rocks of the region, and it happens that the rocks exposed in the

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the director of the Minnesota Geological Survey.

<sup>2</sup> "The Story of the Grand Portage," *ante*, 5: 14-27.

<sup>3</sup> The work on which the map is based was done by Dr. Frank F. Grout, Mr. Francis G. Wells, Mr. William T. Pettijohn, and the writer, all of the Minnesota Geological Survey.





### ONTARIO

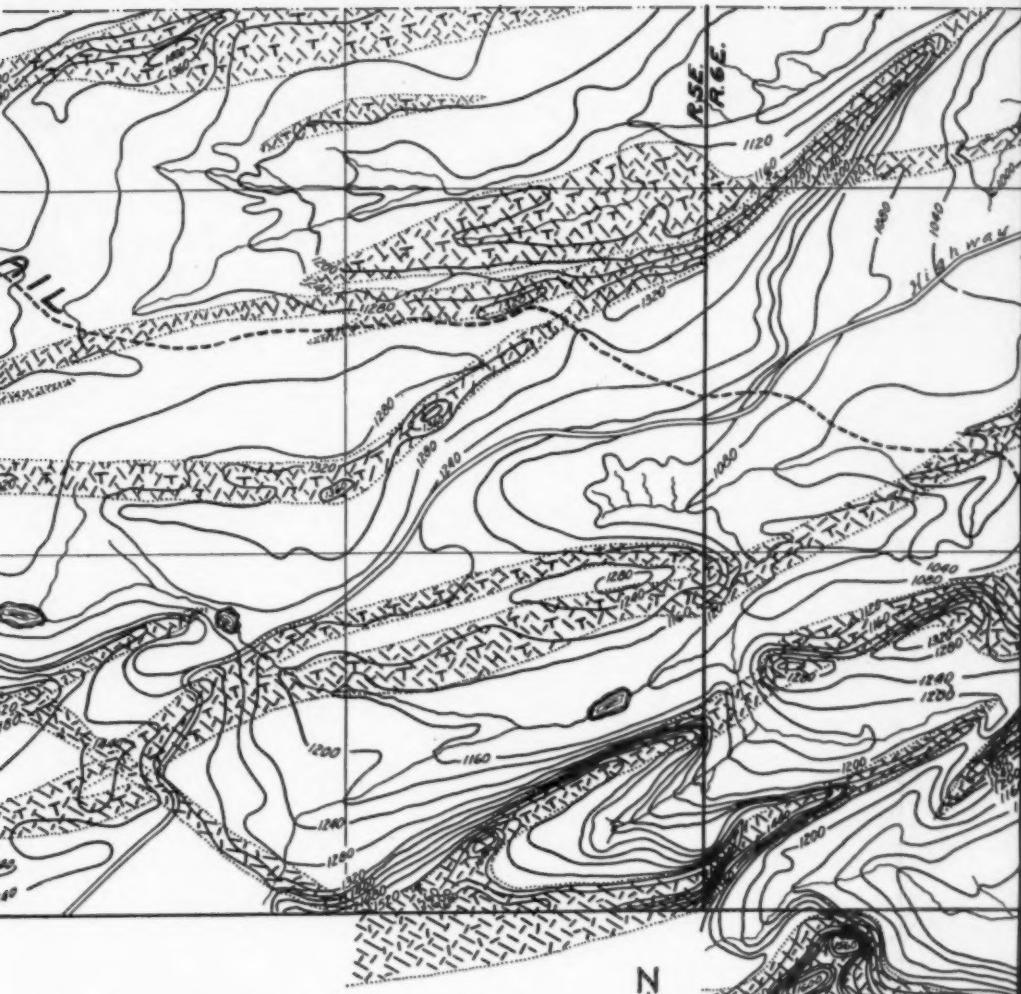


T. 6 N.  
R. 14 E.  
1400

TOPO

G

1000  
1050  
1100  
1150  
1200  
1250  
1300  
1350  
1400



TOPOGRAPHIC & GEOLOGIC MAP  
OF THE  
**GRAND PORTAGE TRAIL**

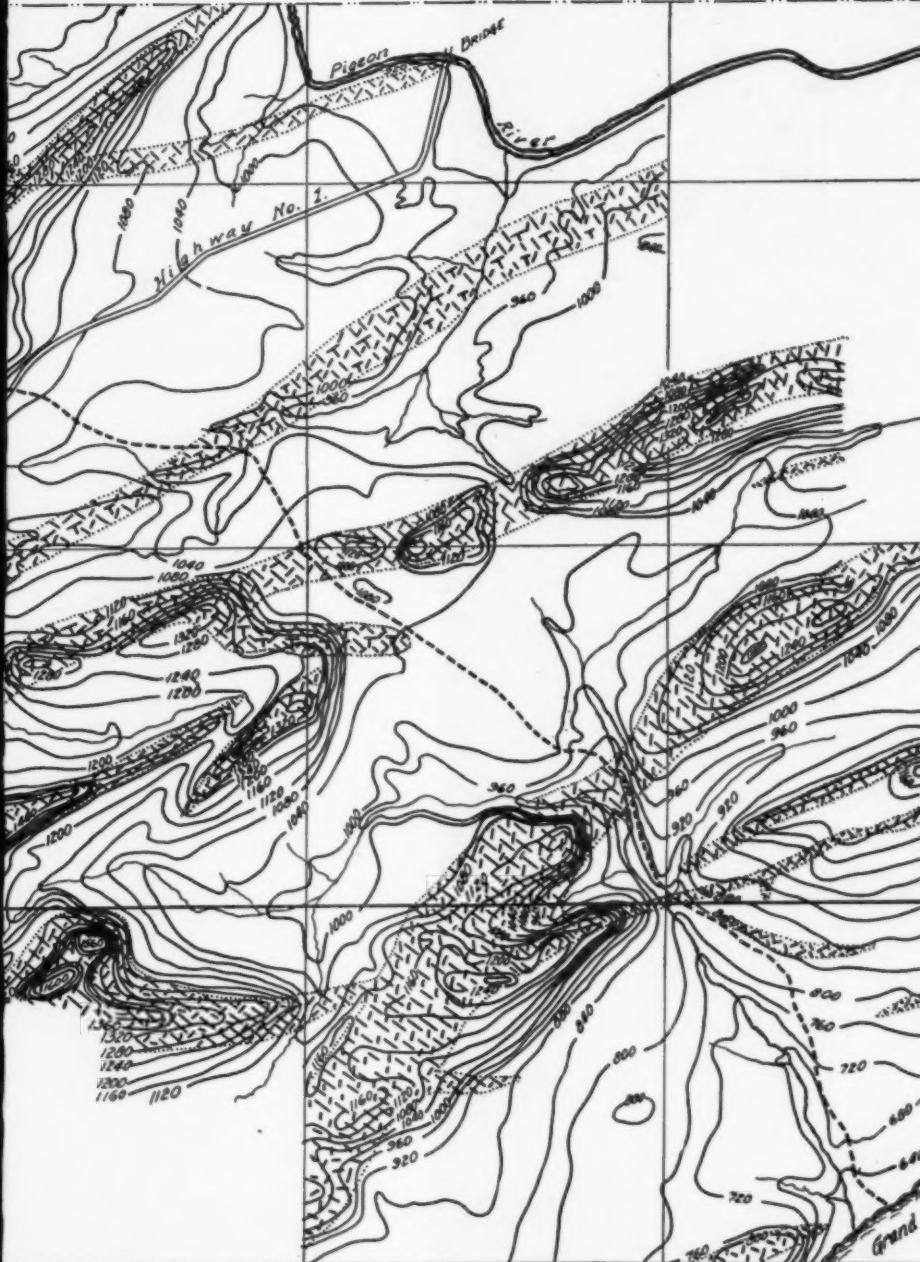
DIABASE DIKES

SLATE

DIABASE SILLS DIPPING SOUTH

1 MILE  
SCALE  
CONTOUR INTERVAL - 40 FEET









Grand Portage region are very old even as geologic time is measured. The Pigeon River, from the location of Fort Charlotte to its mouth, flows practically due east. In detail, however, the stream is exceedingly crooked and the river flows nearly twenty miles to reach a point twelve miles away. This stretch of the river is not only crooked but also very swift, and is interrupted by falls as well as rapids. At places the river flows in a steep-sided canyon with very rugged country on either side. It was thus always out of the question to navigate the river by canoe from the mouth to the site of Fort Charlotte and it was equally impossible to find a good portage along the river.

The shore of Lake Superior trends somewhat southwestward from the mouth of the Pigeon, and the indentation of Grand Portage Bay somewhat shortens the distance between lake and river. The great hills and bluffs along the shore would at first glance seem to form an impassable barrier to transportation over this shorter distance, but investigation shows that there is one gap in this seemingly continuous line of hills and that a rather gradual ascent may be made from the lake level to the river above Cascade Falls, where the stream is navigable by canoe. The Indians doubtless knew the country very thoroughly and were aware that this was the only convenient route to the great inland chains of lakes and rivers. This route was accordingly followed and was called the Grand Portage by the French because of its length of over nine miles.

The region back from Grand Portage Bay is the most rugged in Minnesota and the hills from a distance look like mountains. This rugged topography is the result of complicated processes of erosion acting on rocks of varying degrees of hardness. The two main types of rocks over which the portage passes are known as slate and diabase. The Rove slate, as it is called, received its name from Rove Lake, situated some distance west on the international boundary. The rocks

of this formation actually vary considerably, but may be conveniently referred to as slate. The material was originally deposited as mud mixed with more or less sand and has been changed to slate by heat and pressure. During the period of earth history known as the Pre-Cambrian, but after the formation of the slate, the region was much affected by volcanic activity and great volumes of molten lava were pushed into the slate. At places the molten material forced its way in between the beds of slate and formed sills or sheets. At other places it broke across the beds of slate and formed large dikes, that is tabular masses, in a vertical position. The rock formed by the cooling of the lava is known as diabase. The map shows the location of the dikes and sills crossed by the Grand Portage.

The slate is comparatively soft and, because of its structure, is easily broken. The diabase, on the contrary, is hard and massive and is broken only with difficulty. Consequently the hills are usually diabase and the valleys are underlain by slate. The most prominent ridges of the region about Grand Portage Bay are mainly dikes. Very little is known regarding the geological history of the region from the time of the intrusion of the molten rock to comparatively recent geologic time. Erosion was active at times and the region was worn down so that the intruded rocks were first exposed and then left as hills as the eroding forces cut away the softer slate.

It is obvious from viewing the region or studying the contours of the accompanying map that the valleys have not been developed to any great extent by the streams which occupy them at present. For example, the conspicuous valley followed by the Grand Portage for the first three miles from Lake Superior has no stream in its upper part. Detailed observations of the region show the same thing on both a large and a small scale. There is no doubt that the major topographic features of the area were developed in pre-glacial time; that is, the valleys were cut by streams which drained the region be-

fore the great ice sheets advanced from the north and covered the entire country. As a rule the pre-glacial streams cut valleys in the slate parallel to the sills and dikes of diabase, but some streams of the upper region flowed southward to Lake Superior along the great valley followed by the portage.

The advance of the glacier partially filled the valleys with debris and the hills were scraped nearly bare of soil. When streams began to flow, following the retreat of the glacier, they were forced to follow new channels in places, and some of the prominent gorges and valleys were left without streams.

Grand Portage Bay is the largest indentation of the Minnesota coast of Lake Superior. The village of Grand Portage occupies a relatively low and level area around the bay. To the east is the prominent ridge of Hat Point. This is formed by a large dike and the bay and surrounding lowland is mainly the result of erosion of the softer slate. About one mile up the portage from the bay is a gap where an old valley cuts across two large dikes. The map shows the close relation of the dikes and ridges. The stream which now flows through this gap is very small. About a mile farther on, the trail passes around the nose of a high dike ridge and over a slight crest, then dips across a valley. This is practically the only place on the trail where elevation once gained is lost, but it was impossible to avoid this valley and a loss of elevation of a hundred feet. Beyond the stream the trail follows the gentle rise to the west for three miles.

About midway between Lake Superior and the Pigeon River the trail passes through a narrow gap. It is noteworthy that this is the only break in a ridge which extends far on each side of the trail. One must admire the manner in which advantage was taken of every favorable place in the topography. Beyond the gap the trail turns nearly due west and for the most part follows the dip slope of diabase sills, thus securing a comparatively level route and avoiding the extensive swamps of this westerly area. The broad curve of the trail

to the north about two miles from the river was made to avoid a large swamp. By following the sill a gradual descent to the river was obtained.

The great pre-glacial valley cut through the dikes north of Grand Portage formed, as noted above, the only natural route from Lake Superior to the Pigeon River. Geologic processes are responsible for the erosion which cut the one practical route. This path accordingly was followed by the Indians and later by explorers and traders, and thus the pre-glacial valley carried commerce instead of water. The development of modern transportation has left the old trail without even this traffic, but the historic and geological interest remains. It is sincerely to be hoped that some means may be found to preserve the old route. At least it should be marked in a permanent manner.

GEORGE M. SCHWARTZ

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

## EARLY MINNEAPOLIS THEATERS<sup>1</sup>

Contrary to general opinion, the first theater in Minneapolis — that is, the first place of amusement with full stage equipment — appears to have been Harrison's Hall. The Pence Opera House, often spoken of as the first theater, came eight years after Harrison's Hall, which was erected in 1864. Prior to that year the nearest approach to a theater had been Harmonia Hall, built in 1859 at First Avenue North and Second Street. Still earlier places of amusement were Central Hall at St. Anthony (1853), Woodman's Hall (1857), Fletcher's Hall, Boardman's Hall, and Woodman's Hall Number 2, all of them merely gathering places with slightly elevated platforms at one end of the room. Harmonia Hall boasted a proscenium, a decided advance among these temples of Thespis, and this proscenium is still standing — a bizarre anachronism in a remodeled building now used for the storage of hides. Generations of strolling players, forgotten plays, the genesis of the present symphony orchestra, amateur players forgetting their lines, the Swiss Bell Ringers, Fay Templeton, stereopticon lectures, "Buffalo Gals" sung in a blackface act — the proscenium with diamond-shaped panels set at decorative intervals has seen them all.

Rival theaters crowded into the neighborhood of the Harmonia and these in turn disappeared. Finally the Harmonia was closed and its name transferred to a new place of amuse-

<sup>1</sup> This article by Mr. Edgar is based upon careful research in contemporary sources of information, especially Minneapolis newspapers. It is intended as a contribution to local history, but it throws light in incidental fashion upon an important aspect of the cultural history of the Middle West. In other words, the changing character of the theater, here portrayed for one locality, affords a clue to those broader social and intellectual changes which the "new history" is today so much interested in tracing. Ed. [Copyright, 1928, by Randolph Edgar.]

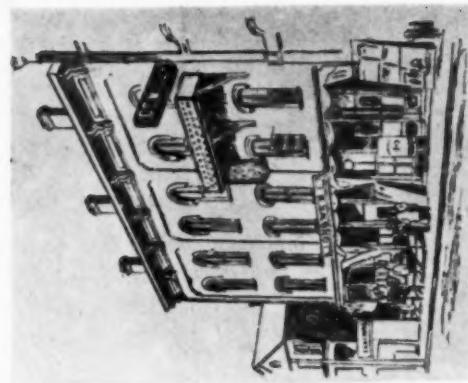
ment. The seats were removed, the stage pulled down, and all things that had borne the semblance of a theater, with the exception of the proscenium, ceased to exist. In the meantime the short-lived Harrison's Hall at Washington and Nicollet avenues had come and gone, and the building had been turned into offices and dramatic rights surrendered to the newly erected Pence Opera House at Second Street and Hennepin Avenue.<sup>2</sup>

The Pence Opera House was planned as the Pence Music Hall, but with elaborations in its construction the original name was covered with newer signboards indicating the revision. The theater itself, like many theaters of the period, was reached after a climb of two flights of stairs. It contained a balcony — an innovation — and an admirably proportioned proscenium in which were set small stage boxes. It is worthy of remark that the theater's dignity of line was in accordance with the finest playhouses of the period. Indeed, certain theaters of today have reverted to these lines, a notable example being the Ambassadors in London, the proscenium of which is almost a replica of the Pence.

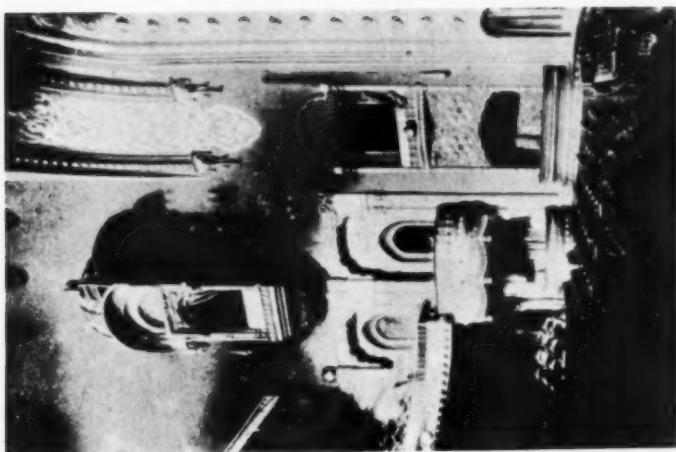
The opening of the Pence Opera House took place on the evening of Friday, June 21, 1867, the offering being a joint concert of the Minneapolis Musical Union with the St. Paul Musical Society. Its opening for dramatic productions was on June 24, 1867, Rachel Johnson appearing in "The Hunch-back" by Sheridan Knowles. The first house manager was A. Macfarland, who also managed the Opera House in St. Paul. In 1879 the name of the Pence was changed to "Metropolitan Theatre" and in the following year to "Criterion Theater." It reverted to the name "Pence Opera House" in 1881, and the last performance at the theater was a benefit given for the manager, Edward P. Hilton, on June 12, 1892, in which mem-

<sup>2</sup> During its construction the Pence Opera House was struck by lightning. A Minneapolis minister explained from the pulpit on the following Sunday that this was an act of God's retribution. A few weeks later this clergyman's church was struck by lightning.

THEATRE COMIQUE

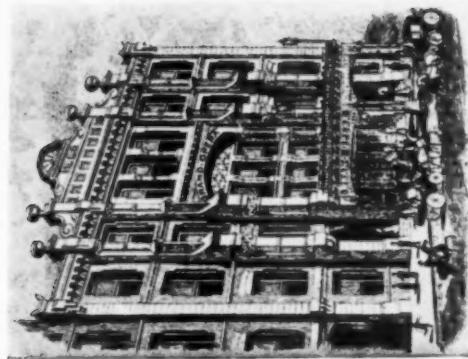


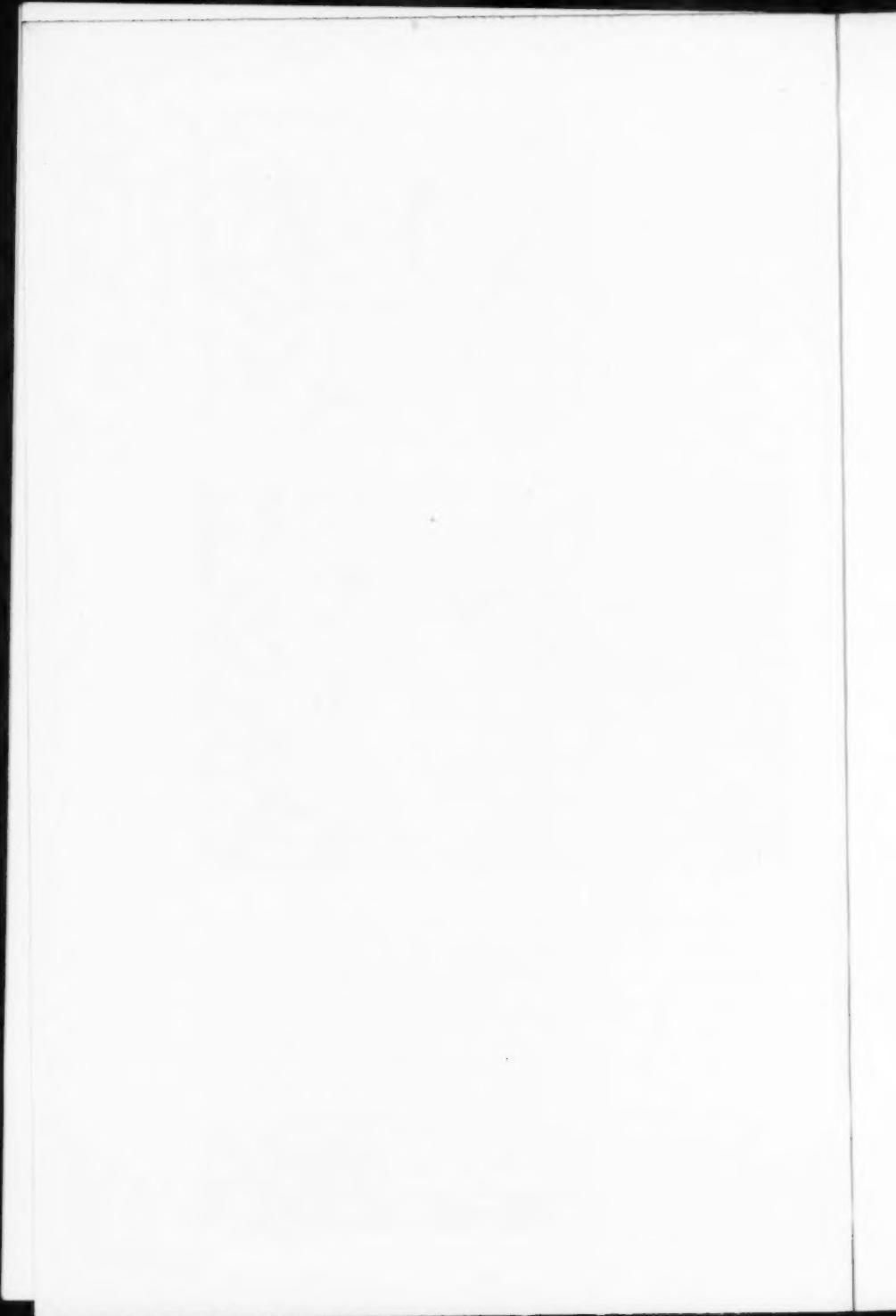
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, 1887



GRAND OPERA HOUSE, 1887

[The views of the Grand Opera House are from prints in the possession of Mr. A. E. Zonne and Mr. Harry S. Robinson of Minneapolis; that of the Comique is reproduced from the *Minneapolis Times* of February 10, 1896.]





bers of the Ida Siddons Variety Company, who had played during the preceding week, took part. Two years later Lester and Williams were announced to appear at the Pence in "Me and Jack" for the week of October 1, 1894, but apparently the engagement was canceled and the theater remained dark.

A dark theater soon falls into decay and when the locked doors of the Pence were opened in 1908 so that the interior might be demolished, the wrecking crew found begrimed draperies and hangings, broken wainscoting, boxes filled with an accumulation of rubbish, and scenery set at strange angles in dim, cobwebbed lights. The curtain, "The Vintage Festival," by Peter Clausen, who for over half a century remained the greatest scenic painter in the Northwest, had been sold and sent to Winnipeg in 1903. Nor did the exterior of the building, which still stands, escape changes, since the street balcony, where bands attracted crowds in the olden days, was removed for the safety of pedestrians. Five years ago the cornice was removed and the building given a new façade.

The Academy of Music — another upstairs theater, but on a larger scale than the Pence — was opened on Tuesday evening, January 2, 1872, with a benefit for the owner, Joseph Hodges, given by the St. Paul Musical Society and the Harmonia Society of Minneapolis. It was located at the corner of Washington and Hennepin avenues and for eleven years housed all of the city's better attractions. The theater burned to the ground on December 25, 1884, one year after the Grand Opera House had taken over the legitimate field.

Another type of theatrical performance had sprung into existence during the seventies — namely, the "variety show," forerunner of modern vaudeville, which was to remain part of the phenomena of Washington Avenue and its districts. The first Minneapolis theater to play variety was the Standard, which was built in 1878 at 124 Washington Avenue North, managed by the notorious Captain W. W. Brown for three years, and closed in 1881. Brown having transferred his inter-

est to the Theatre Comique, which in 1874 had been built at 219-223 Marquette Avenue, the type of performance moved likewise. From August, 1881, until March, 1897, Brown's theater remained open, to the edification of lumberjacks. Rivals in the same field and a withdrawal of the Comique's bar license finally closed its portals, and the building was taken over by the Salvation Army. Yet, like the lady in Hardy's poem, the Theatre Comique was not always bad. It was first known as the Curtis Building; the stones for the foundation were supposed to have been picked up from the Mississippi River bed. A store occupied the ground floor, offices were on the second floor, and the third floor was given over to a hall. This hall apparently was used by a business college for a short time, but during the period when the Central High School was being built the pupils of high standing were instructed here as well, the overflow going to the first Washington School, which afterward burned.

Following its tenure as a place of learning, George Scott leased the building and transformed the third floor into a small theater, which he ran for three months. A dog show held the boards for a brief period and then after an interval of darkness Chambers Brothers reopened the theater in 1877. Two years later Edward S. Johnson became manager and the name "Theatre Comique" was bestowed upon it during his régime. Captain Brown, as stated, came into possession of the theater in 1881. In justice to him it must be recorded that occasionally some rather good things were presented at the Comique. A survey of newspaper files of the eighties shows that the Comique's playbills included Joaquin Miller's "Danites," Edward R. Lang's comedy "Scheming," "Burr Oakes" given by David Higgins, and Alice Oates in "Robin Hood," an extravaganza predating the comic opera of that name. Brown rebuilt the theater several times, enlarging the stage, increasing the seating capacity, and finally doing away with the third floor and replacing it with a balcony. After making a fortune

from the theater and losing it by other investments, Brown let the Comique become a rat-infested dive with secret stairways, wine rooms, and subcellars. The Salvation Army tenure, which began in 1895, was brought to a sudden close on July 23, 1901, when the building burned to the ground. A year preceding this fire Brown resumed his theatrical career at the second Harmonia Hall, which had been built at 210 South Third Street in 1887. He renamed the place "Standard Theatre." The experiment, however, lasted but a year, since this somewhat unique type of theater was becoming obsolete.

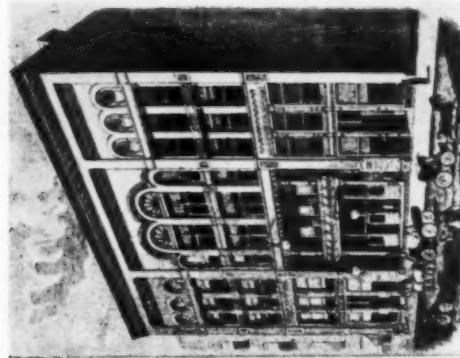
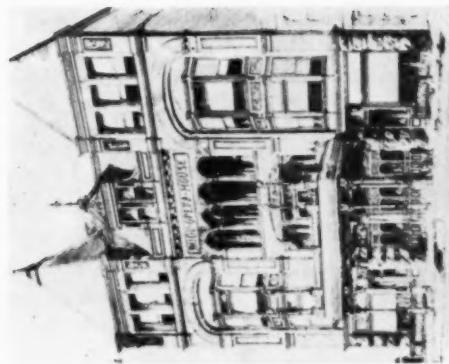
In passing, three other theaters resembling the Comique may be mentioned — Orchestrion Hall, the Casino Music Hall, and the Park Theatre. The last-named place of amusement — for thus it was classified in the city directory — is the last chronologically. As late as 1902 it was reached through a covered alleyway at the corner of Nicollet Avenue and First Street. The Casino Music Hall at 220 Washington Avenue South was opened in 1892 and closed by the police in 1895. Of longer duration, Orchestrion Hall at 210 Washington Avenue South opened its doors in 1889 and kept them open, except during an interval of damage from fire, for sixteen years. About 1890 it was rebuilt and named the "Jumbo Theatre"; in 1894 it was renamed "Central Garden." On the night of May 3, 1894, its interior was demolished in a fire which started in the adjoining Reed Building. In the same year it was rebuilt as the "New Jumbo," and two years later it was called the "Columbia Theatre." Captain Brown took a hand in its management when he abandoned the Comique, albeit the place was owned by a rival, and in 1903 the theater again took an alias, — this time a final one, — the "Empire Theatre." The theater was notable as the first place in Minneapolis where motion pictures were shown. These pictures, which lasted twenty minutes at the close of the regular performance, were brought over from the old Orpheum Music Hall in St. Paul, where they had been shown earlier in the evening. The records

of these theaters, the Comique, Standard, Casino, Empire, and Park, are exceedingly bad even in retrospect. There is a Neapolitan stabbing affair closely associated with one of the Washington Avenue shows, and a patron of the drama at the Comique had his neck broken by falling from a proscenium box to the stage. A stage hand removed the body and the performance was resumed.

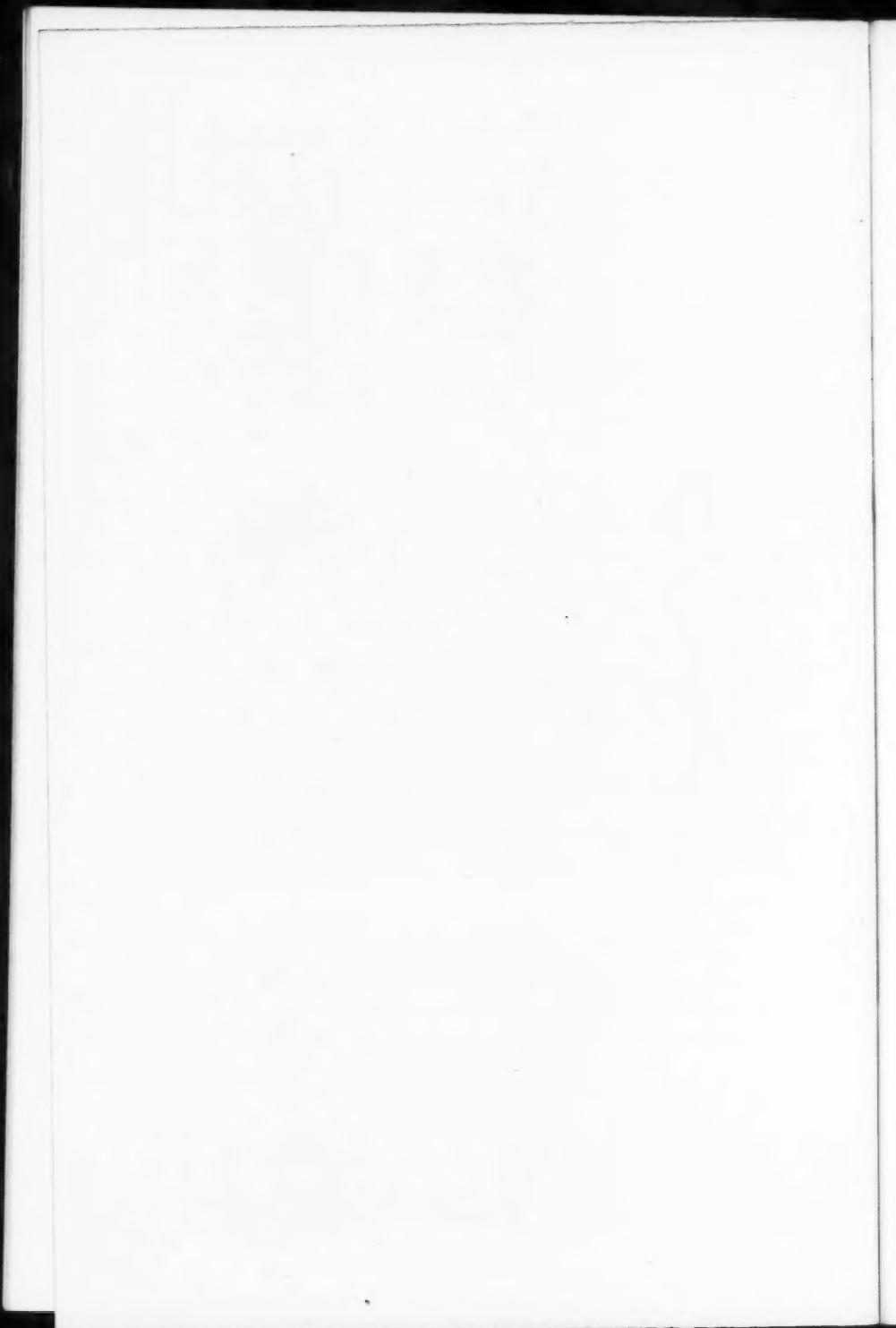
The Minneapolis of the eighties was a city of strong frontier contrasts in which a determined minority battled with an indifferent, often vicious, element for the betterment of the city. Thus it was that at least one splendid hotel, one first-class newspaper, and one of the finest theaters in the west were created in a manner suggestive of Bagdad. That these properties dissolved in the decade to follow, emphasizes an Aladdin's touch. The Grand Opera House, forming a part of the Syndicate Block in 1883, is still referred to by New York managers as an ideal playhouse. Under the management of J. F. Conklin, it opened on April 2, 1883, with the Amherst Glee Club. Four years later it was redecorated by Mr. John S. Bradstreet, who twenty-two years afterward was to decorate the Minneapolis Shubert Theatre. The Grand Opera House closed on October 5, 1895, with Hoyt's "A Contented Woman" and its bookings were transferred to the Metropolitan Opera House, which had opened the preceding year as the New People's Theater. In 1897 the Grand Opera House was completely demolished and a retail shop erected on the site.

Competition with the Grand Opera House of Moorish interior created the exceedingly attractive East Indian playhouse near Seventh Street which was first known as the "Hennepin Avenue Theater." It opened on September 19, 1887, with Booth and Barrett in "Julius Caesar," and in May, 1889, it was renamed "Harris' Theatre." It was managed for a period by George H. Broadhurst, the playwright who later wrote "The Man of the Hour" and "Paid in Full." In 1890 the name was changed to "Lyceum Theater" and in 1908 to "Lyric Theatre." Its last dramatic offering was "The Beg-

THE SECOND BIJOU OPERA HOUSE  
[The picture of the exterior of Harris' Theatre is from the possession of Mr. Zonne; the other views are reproduced from the *Minneapolis City Directory* for 1889-90, p. 595, and 1892-93, p. 210.]



HARRIS' THEATRE, 1887  
[The picture of the exterior of Harris' Theatre is from the possession of Mr. Zonne; the other views are reproduced from the *Minneapolis City Directory* for 1889-90, p. 595, and 1892-93, p. 210.]



gar's Opera" on February 9, 1922. The following year the building was torn down and the name of the theater transferred across the street to a "movie" previously known as the "Blue Mouse." Location was largely responsible for the Hennepin-Harris-Lyceum-Lyric's lack of popularity. It was almost necessary to carry a lantern to find the theater during twenty years of its existence, and by the time Minneapolis had grown until its rialto included the property, the whole building was falling to pieces.

Reverting to the period which ushered in the Grand and Hennepin Avenue playhouses, several halls and museums may be mentioned in order to keep the record of early theaters complete. The latter often contained at least one fully equipped stage — sometimes two, as in the case of Kohl and Middleton's Palace Museum on Washington and Marquette. Such places as the Exposition Hall built in 1886 and Century Hall at Fourth Street and Marquette were used almost entirely for concerts. A museum was built in 1884 at 513-515 Hennepin Avenue and managed by B. F. Williams; two years later another museum, at 214-216 Hennepin Avenue, was owned by Sackett and Wiggins, who were likewise the first proprietors of the Palace Museum; and a nameless museum on lower Nicollet Avenue at a later period featured "Jo-Jo, the Dog-Faced Boy" before admiring throngs. During the summer of 1885 the first stock company presenting light opera in the city was seen at the Alcazar Opera House (Leland Rink) at Marquette and Sixth Street South. Market Hall, near Bridge Square, sheltered for a season the first stock company offering the spoken drama.

That melodrama should thrive in a generation that lacked the motion picture was inevitable. "Nelly, the Beautiful Cloak Model," "Saved from the Sea," and the like were sure of large and appreciative audiences at the People's Theatre, which opened on October 31, 1887, at 20 Washington Avenue North. It was owned by Lambert Hayes and its first manager was W. E. Sterling of Buffalo, New York. On February 1,

1889, Kohl and Middleton leased the theater, and in July, 1889, it was taken over by Jacob Litt, who renamed it the "Bijou Opera House." A gas jet behind the scenes was responsible for the fire which burned the building to the ground on December 28, 1890. A second Bijou Opera House was built on the same site the following year, and during the interval Bijou attractions were housed at the Lyceum Theater. Melodrama having died out, the Bijou was adapted to motion pictures, although a stock company in comparatively recent years brought an uptown crowd to the theater for one season while it was temporarily called the Bainbridge.

The first manager of the People's Theatre, W. E. Sterling, returned to Minneapolis in 1894 to open the New People's Theater, built by Lac Stafford at 322 Marquette Avenue.<sup>8</sup> It was opened on March 24, 1894, with the People's Players in "Nancy & Co.," preceded by a curtain-raiser, "A Bed of Roses." On December 16, 1894, the theater was acquired by Jacob Litt, who renamed it the "Metropolitan Opera House." Except for "The New Boy" and one or two other road attractions, it was used for lectures and amateur performances, which alternated with periods of darkness. The theater then passed into the hands of L. N. Scott, the second manager of the Grand Opera House, and with the closing of the latter playhouse the season's bookings were switched to the Metropolitan. Since its monopoly of first-class attractions has lasted thirty-three years, it is not uninteresting to note that the Metropolitan under the Scott régime opened with a Sunday matinée, a performance by the Chicago Marine Band, and that on the following evening "Trilby," the first of the dramatic bookings transferred from the Grand, was presented.

RANDOLPH EDGAR

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

<sup>8</sup> Another People's Theatre, which was used only for motion pictures and had no stage equipment, was opened at 2100 Washington Avenue North in 1908 and operated until 1914.

## HISTORICAL BOOKKEEPING BY QUADRUPLE ENTRY<sup>1</sup>

Local historical societies suffer from the need of a simple method of keeping historical records and the method adopted by the St. Louis County Historical Society is planned to fill this need. It is easy to apply, and may be learned in a few hours by any intelligent person. Any inquirer for historical information in the territory covered by a society using this method is able to find relevant facts on any subject under inquiry if they are included among the records in the possession of the society. The system is like a first-class modern index in a book, although its scope is much wider. The record deals with the past and the present. Current events of all kinds are entered. Facts relating to persons and events of the past are constantly being assembled and these are noted from day to day in the appropriate places. Documents are preserved and indexed. There are four classes of entries, which are so fully cross-indexed that nothing is lost or buried. As now developed, this type of bookkeeping satisfies the purposes of counties or cities having a population of 250,000 or less. The cataloguing of historical libraries, museums, and pictures is a supplemental work to be taken up where necessary.

Mechanically the bookkeeping requires a set of metal or wooden boxes with sliding frames in each box. There may be as few as four to begin with, but they should be of the type that may be added to at will either perpendicularly or laterally

<sup>1</sup> One of the distinctive achievements of the St. Louis County Historical Society, which has its headquarters at Duluth, Minnesota, is the system of "historical bookkeeping" worked out and successfully administered by its president, the Honorable William E. Culkin. It is believed that his description of the system, herewith published, will be read with interest by many local historical workers who are concerned about the proper preservation and administration of records. *Ed.*

as need arises. The four kinds of entries are (1) chronological, (2) personal, (3) subject records, and (4) accessions. The records are kept in Manila folders, each with a tab on one edge. When a folder is used for the bookkeeping it is placed upright in the proper case with a notation on the tab of the folder showing what it deals with. The folders are held upright by sliding contrivances that can be bought with the cases.

The chronological entries in the index are simple to make. A folder is set apart for each year in the county history. Cards are placed in the appropriate folder for any year outlining briefly the main events of that year. When such a chronology has been completed an inquirer may turn to any year in the county's history and at once find out what took place in that year. As the folders are arranged in the order of time, this chronology needs no special index.

Personal entries constitute an important group. The names of all persons — living or dead — whose achievements are being recorded are entered separately in folders, one to a person. In the folder relating to a given individual all facts available about him or her are preserved. These may be preserved in many different forms, such as letters, autographs, photographs, genealogical documents, biographical sketches, and newspaper clippings. Folders containing such materials are of real interest. Such a biographical record is open to all names, with no line drawn between those of special importance and the others. In time, doubtless those of real importance will stand out and be recognized. This group needs no special index, as the names are arranged alphabetically.

Subject records comprise the third series of folders of the quadruple entry bookkeeping. This series needs no special index — though one may be convenient — because the subjects are filed alphabetically. A separate Manila folder is used for any subject of interest to the people of the territory in which the society is specially interested. There is no binding

formula. The subjects mount gradually to several hundred. Some examples are agricultural development, altitudes, local authors, banking, bench and bar, Boy Scouts, census reports, churches, minerals, mining, museums, lumbering, the fur trade, flora, fauna, the French régime, the British régime, railroads, the World War, the American Revolution, Indian lore, Kiwanians, Rotarians, racial groups, societies, manufacturing, missionaries, old settlers, public lands, exploration, and libraries. Each society would of course work out the details of its own subject entries.

Under any subject record, any historical fact or any development relevant to the subject is recorded by means of newspaper clippings, travelers' tales, or any information in whatever form it may come. The index of personal entries may here be supplemented, for under the appropriate general heading among the subject records a store of information about individuals may turn up.

"Accessions" are in a special sense the documentary possessions of the society. They are old narratives in print or in writing, papers read at the society meetings, old deeds and wills, and the like, as well as pictures and all other articles of historical value. A folder is set apart for each accession, which is numbered in the order of its receipt. In the case of a document, the accession may be kept in the folder. Where the accession is a large volume or a large framed picture or a museum article, a memorandum of it goes in the folder and the accession itself is placed in an appropriate place. Each accession has its own number stamped upon it permanently, and this number is also noted on the tab of the folder. When the accession does not lend itself to such an inscription a tag is attached to it with the number indicated and a brief memorandum. Notations give the history of an accession, the time when it was received, and by whom donated or from whom purchased. In the front of this group of folders there should be two indexes. One of these is a list of the accessions in

numerical order, in which each is described. The other index relates to the persons, places, things, and events recorded in every accession. Such indexes are always open to additions and are constantly enlarged as accessions are received.

Cross-indexing is of much value and is easily done through the four groups of entries described. It is evident that facts entered in any one of the groups often may have a bearing on an entry or entries in the other groups. Cross-indexing is done on cards about three by four inches in size. An illustration of this method may be given. Assume that the personal record contains a folder relating to John Smith; this contains his photograph, a biographical sketch, newspaper clippings about him, his autograph on an old letter, and other similar items. It appears that he wrote an article on "Early Settlers," which was not published. He opened the first farm in the county in 1832. His article on "Early Settlers" is Accession Number 116 of the society. To cross-index place a dated card in the personal folder with these notations: see accession folder 116; see subject-folder "Agricultural Development"; see year 1832. Then a card is placed in each of the folders indicated referring back to John Smith's personal folder. Thus the bookkeeping guides one to the materials on John Smith and his relation to his environment. Search may open other lines of information on a given topic, such as agricultural development. If the subject is still living he will be anxious to add to the record. If he is dead, his descendants or friends often will be glad to add to it.

All papers and other items received by historical societies should have noted on them by stamp or otherwise when and from whom received. Such notations, which are essential, become more and more important as time passes. Other memoranda in reference to a paper or article of importance should be made. A supplemental notation on a card should reveal when the paper was written, by whom, and the occa-

sion of it. As to museum items, these are of little value to the public unless accompanied by historical memoranda. Newspaper clippings should carry the date of publication and the name of the paper. The system of bookkeeping here described does not contemplate the mounting of such clippings. Notations are made on the clippings, which are then filed. In all well-organized historical societies such notations are deemed essential, but in many societies this noting is not carefully done.

Cataloguing supplements the bookkeeping, but is not necessary until the collections have become sizable. The fields usually in need of cataloguing are (1) the library, (2) the collection of pictures, and (3) museum articles. Local historical libraries for most jurisdictions should exclude all books except those relevant to the territory covered by the society, and therefore they should be small and select. Catalogues of pictures and photographs are convenient for reference. Catalogues of museum items are necessary for reference. These catalogues may be made up in card index boxes of small size for handy reference. But the bookkeeping should carry in proper form and place references to the books in the library, to pictures, and to museum articles. All this is easy and not at all complicated. In fact all historical societies have methods of record-keeping. The method described in this article is thought to be orderly and better than those in use in some jurisdictions, and therefore it is recommended.

Each of the four classes of entries is kept in a separate box or boxes, with the sliding frame attached to the front. On the front an appropriate card is fixed showing what is in the box. The boxes are set in tiers. After accumulated material has been arranged in such boxes, the current work can probably be kept up with little effort in most localities. An hour devoted to the task on each working day will do wonders. This plan is not only useful for regularly organized societies but would be very useful for counties or cities without such

societies. Some official or clerk might be made a county historical record-keeper and a set of record boxes be kept in a public vault open to appropriate contributions.

This plan, worked out by the undersigned, is not patented, and so it is available without cost to any society that wishes to use it. Filing boxes can be bought from dealers or made of wood by a cabinet-maker. Since historical records become more and more valuable as time passes, they should be kept if possible in a fireproof building. The St. Louis County Historical Society uses this plan and it issues this description for the consideration of those historically-minded. It will welcome suggestions in reference to the plan.

WILLIAM E. CULKIN

ST. LOUIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

## THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1927<sup>1</sup>

Some years ago a distinguished scholar called attention to the desirability of "humanizing knowledge"—making the results of scientific investigation available in such form that they may be understood, or at least appreciated, by intelligent people not specialists in the particular fields, and also arousing their interest in such things. This, he believes, is necessary if the great advances in knowledge of the last half century are to have their full effect in promoting human progress. Without neglecting the fundamental work of collecting, preserving, and making available historical materials and promoting investigations that may add to the sum of historical knowledge, the Minnesota Historical Society has also concerned itself with the humanizing of history, and in this report special attention will be given to this phase of its activities.

The annual meeting of the society in January and the state historical convention held under its auspices in June were among its most effective means of humanizing history. Papers read at these meetings by trained scholars and competent amateurs, whether contributions to knowledge or reinterpretations, were presented in popular form; considerable attention was devoted to the promotion of sound local history work; and the unusually large attendance at both meetings indicates that considerable interest in history was aroused among the people of Minnesota. The influence was carried still farther through extensive newspaper publicity and the publication of accounts of the meetings and most of the papers in the society's magazine. Plans are now under consideration for the next

<sup>1</sup> Read at the annual meeting of the society on January 9, 1928. *Ed.*

summer meeting, and suggestions, especially as to place, will be welcomed.

Another indication of growing interest in history is the continued increase in the membership of the society. The number of active members enrolled during 1927 was 108, somewhat less than in 1926, and the total active membership at the end of the year was 1,470, a net increase of 47. Deaths of active members numbered 33 and 33 were dropped for nonpayment of dues, but 5 who had previously been dropped were reinstated. It is gratifying to note that the number of those who dropped out in 1927 was smaller than in any previous year since 1922—an indication that the society is strengthening its hold on the interest of its members. The total membership, including 8 honorary, 53 corresponding, and 10 institutional members, is 1,541; and adding the 172 Minnesota schools and libraries that subscribe to the society's publications makes a total of 1,713 members and subscribers.

In membership the society ranks near the top among state historical societies, but there must be hundreds if not thousands of other people in the state who would appreciate the privileges of membership if the matter could be brought effectively to their attention. A new *Roll of Members*, arranged by counties, which has just been published, will enable present members to ascertain who of their acquaintances are not now enrolled, and it is believed that they will coöperate effectively in a membership campaign soon to be launched. Neither the dues of annual members nor the interest on life membership fees is enough, however, to pay the cost of printing the publications that are sent to each member. It may be necessary before long to raise the dues or to limit the publications distributed to members without charge; at any rate, it is hoped that such of the present life members as feel that they can afford to will become contributing-life members paying five dollars or more a year, or patrons contributing fifty dollars or more annually.

The society's publications are undoubtedly one of its most effective means of humanizing history. The four issues of its magazine, *MINNESOTA HISTORY*, for the year, make, with the index, a volume of 491 pages. Besides accounts of the meetings, documents, translations, reviews, and notes, the volume contains nine major articles, most of them by trained scholars, but all so written as to have an appeal to the general reader. Favorable comments upon the magazine have been received during the year from a number of the most distinguished historical scholars in the country, and its popular interest is attested by the fact that newspapers have drawn upon it frequently for stories and have reprinted several of the articles in full. One article, entitled "Monte Cassino, Metten, and Minnesota," by Dr. August C. Krey of the University of Minnesota, was reprinted in pamphlet form by St. John's University.

A larger public than that served by the magazine is probably reached by means of the monthly clip sheet, *Minnesota Historical News*, which is sent to more than three hundred Minnesota newspapers. This service is much appreciated by the papers, the stories are extensively printed and read, and they undoubtedly help to arouse and sustain popular interest in history and in the society. Another publication, the *Check List of Minnesota Public Documents*, which is now issued quarterly, serves the practical purpose of keeping librarians and others who may be interested, informed of all the current publications of the state and its institutions. A cumulation of this check list for the fiscal biennium 1923-25 was brought out during the year as a pamphlet of forty pages, and it is expected that other cumulations will be published in the future. The only other publication of the society in 1927 was the *Roll of Members*, previously mentioned, which was issued as number 3 of the *Handbook Series*. It is hoped that a new edition of the general *Handbook* of the society may appear in the near future, and plans have been made for a number of handbooks dealing with special activities.

On the more extensive publication projects of the society, progress can be reported, although no volume has appeared during the year. Dr. Folwell is still making additions to the manuscript for the fourth and last volume of his history of the state and these are being edited about as rapidly as they are received. The first volume of the two-volume general history of Minnesota in the World War will be ready for the printer in a month or two and considerable progress has been made on the second volume. This work is being written by Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook and Miss Livia Appel, who comprise the staff of the war records division. Two other volumes, a collection of documents on Indian missions in Minnesota, edited by Dr. Grace L. Nute, the curator of manuscripts, and a bibliography of Minnesota newspapers and inventory of existing files, compiled by the superintendent and Mr. Bryce E. Lehman, with the assistance of grants from the graduate school of the University of Minnesota, will be ready as soon as funds are available for their publication.

The number of books, pamphlets, and bound volumes of newspapers added to the library in 1927 was 2,569, a slight increase over 1926. The gifts—including newspapers, which are contributed by the publishers but bound by the society, and United States documents, which are technically on deposit—made up fifty-two per cent of the total. Thirty-nine per cent were purchased, and the remaining nine per cent came in by exchange with other institutions. The accessions of the year bring the estimated strength of the library to 164,000. The additions to the manuscript collection were unusually numerous, extensive, and important, the bulk of them being photostatic copies or transcripts of Minnesota material in other depositories. Especially notable are the early diaries of Governor Ramsey, about seven hundred sheets of population schedules of the census of 1860, filling gaps in the incomplete set in the state archives, about the same number of reproductions of manuscript maps in French archives, and large addi-

tions of material relating to the fur trade, Indian missions, and the Sioux War. In the museum there have been considerable additions to the domestic life, pioneer, military, archeological, and numismatic collections; and the picture collection has been notably enriched by the purchase of 6,700 photographs, negatives, and lantern slides from the estate of the late Edward A. Bromley. Notes on the more important additions to the society's collections of books, pamphlets, newspapers, manuscripts, pictures, and museum articles are published regularly in the magazine.

The rearrangement of the library necessitated by the construction of an additional level of the bookstacks has been completed. The top level, which is cut off from the rest of the stacks by gratings with locked doors, is now devoted principally to manuscripts and archives; the level below that contains United States documents and other uncatalogued material; and the three lower levels, which are nearest to the reading room, house the catalogued and most used part of the library. It proved impossible to make space in the stacks for the duplicates awaiting disposition and they are still on wooden shelving at the bottom of the unfinished stack space. Another level of the bookstack should be constructed in the near future, and additional shelving for newspapers will soon be essential. Part of the new stack level has been designed for the storage of maps, boxes and folders suitable for flat filing have been obtained, and a beginning has been made in classifying and arranging the extensive and invaluable map collection. Several new exhibition cases, additional vertical files for pictures and lantern slides, and a mezzanine floor in one of the storage closets have greatly facilitated the care of the museum collections.

Exceptional progress has been made during the year in the cataloguing of the library. The number of books and pamphlets catalogued, 2,855, exceeded the accessions for the year, exclusive of newspapers and United States documents, which

are not regularly catalogued, by 860, thus indicating that real progress is being made upon the uncatalogued accumulations of the past. These are so large, however, that at the present rate it will be twenty years before they are all catalogued, and in addition large sections of the library are greatly in need of reclassification and recataloguing to make them fully available. The picture collection, with the exception of part of the Bromley pictures, is all catalogued, and progress has been made on a catalogue of museum specimens. The manuscript division has nearly completed an inventory of the personal papers, which make up the bulk of the manuscripts exclusive of archives. A start was made during the year on a dictionary catalogue of manuscripts, but it soon became evident that this would require the services of a trained cataloguer for a considerable period, and, as no funds for such an assistant were available, the work was suspended. All current accessions of manuscripts have been arranged and filed as received; the sorting of the Knute Nelson Papers, which fill three hundred filing boxes, was completed; and progress was made in the arrangement of the great collection of land office papers. The shifting of the manuscripts and archives to the top level of the bookstack made possible a rearrangement of the entire collection on a systematic plan.

Although the number of readers registered in the main library was larger than in 1926, the number of books served to them — about forty thousand — was several thousand less than for the preceding year. The explanation, in part at least, seems to be that, because of the insufficiency of the reference staff, more readers were allowed access to the stacks, and no record can be made of the books they use. A large increase was noted in the use of books in the field of Minnesota history. The growing recognition of the importance of the library is evidenced by the fact that it was used during the year by people from nineteen states and one foreign country, some of whom came to St. Paul specifically for that purpose. The

number of users of manuscripts increased from 244 in 1926 to 333 in 1927, and the number of visitors to the museum—about forty thousand—was larger than for previous years.

Not all the people who want information that the society is in a position to furnish can come to the building, and information on all sorts of subjects is supplied by mail or telephone. Such of these inquiries as call for special historical knowledge or investigation are assigned to the members of the staff best equipped to handle them and their replies are put in the form of brief reports. The number of such reports increased from 113 in 1926 to 122 in 1927, exclusive of duplicates of previous reports, which can sometimes be made to serve. Copies of all the reports, which now total 610, are preserved and indexed, and the file of them is a valuable compact repository of reference information relating primarily to Minnesota history.

Probably one of the most effective means of humanizing history employed by the society is the informal talks or lectures given by members of the staff, usually on topics in Minnesota history, before clubs, local historical societies, classes, and meetings and gatherings of all sorts. About seventy such talks were given in 1927 by four members of the staff; and, except in a very few cases, no compensation was received. The illustrated talks given by Mr. Babcock to classes brought to the museum for the purpose serve to promote an interest in history on the part of the younger generation. Four of the lectures, on broad aspects of the state's history, were given in the building as a series under the auspices of the society, and the attendance averaged nearly a hundred. The four lectures were repeated at the summer session of the University of Minnesota.

Another phase of the society's efforts to humanize history consists of the promotion of local history activities in the state. Mention has already been made of the attention given to this at the annual and summer meetings, but in addition members of the staff are frequently in correspondence with local history

leaders in various parts of the state, aiding them in their work, if it is under way, or helping them to get it started. Three new county historical societies were organized during the year—in Roseau, Otter Tail, and Crow Wing counties—making a total of eleven in the state. The activities of these societies are regularly reported in *MINNESOTA HISTORY*, and several of them are affiliated with the state society through institutional membership and report annually to it.

The society continues its efforts to increase and improve the teaching of Minnesota history in the schools. A detailed syllabus for the history of the state, compiled by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, is now available in mimeographed form; and aid of one form or another is rendered frequently to teachers of the subject throughout the state. Courses in Minnesota history are now given in Hamline University, Macalester College, and the University of Minnesota, and the students in these courses make extensive use of the resources of the society.

The success of the society's work during the past year has been due very largely to the experience, efficiency, and enthusiasm of the assistant superintendent and the heads of the various divisions and departments. Fortunately there have been no resignations in any of these positions, and the few vacancies that occurred in minor positions were promptly filled with competent people. The professional quality of a number of the members of the staff is indicated by their activities outside the regular work of the society—activities that keep them and the society in touch with the larger world of scholarship.

The competence of Dr. Blegen in his professional work has recently been attested by his appointment to a position in the department of history at the University of Minnesota, and he continues to edit the publications of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, three volumes of which have appeared during the year. He has also written two biographies for the "Dictionary of American Biography" and has written articles and edited documents for a number of historical magazines.

Dr. Nute has been appointed to a part-time position in the department of history at Hamline University, where she is teaching a course in Minnesota history. An article by her on "The Papers of the American Fur Company" has been published in the *American Historical Review*, and she has written reviews of books for the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. She took advantage of a vacation in the East to visit depositories of manuscripts in Quebec, New York, and Washington, and search them for material of Minnesota interest.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum, served as vice president of the Mid-west Museums Conference and had charge of arrangements and the program for a meeting of the organization held in St. Paul and Minneapolis in November. He spent a week in July with a field expedition of the Milwaukee Public Museum, exploring Indian mounds in Wisconsin. He attended the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting at New Orleans and the American Historical Association meeting at Washington at his own expense; and, also at his own expense, made a trip in December to Des Moines, Topeka, and St. Louis, for the purpose of locating material for the society and for use in his work on a doctoral dissertation on the administration of Indian affairs in Minnesota. He has been given a leave of absence for four or five months from February 1, 1928, to enable him to complete this dissertation.

Members of the library staff have coöperated in the work of the Minnesota and Twin City library associations and have attended meetings of the American Library Association. Mr. Jacob Hodnefield, head of the accessions department of the library, and Mr. Roy W. Swanson, newspaper assistant, working outside of hours, have translated and edited material for publication in the society's magazine. The superintendent continues to do half-time teaching at the University of Minnesota and during the past year he served as chairman of the American Historical Association's committee on nominations

and as a member of its committees on endowment and on bibliography. In the last capacity he has charge of the compilation of a bibliography of American travel.

The appropriations made by the last legislature for the regular activities of the society during the biennium that began last July amount to \$47,400 a year. The increase of \$400 over previous appropriations made possible a few small salary increases, but the sum requested for a much needed head of the reference department was not granted and the service in the reading room will remain inadequate for another biennium at least. A special appropriation of \$8,000 a year for two years was made for the completion and publication of the World War history. This is an increase of \$2,000 a year over the appropriation for war history work by the previous legislature and is the smallest sum with which the work can be adequately done.

The income of the society from dues, except life membership fees, which are invested, and from the proceeds of its permanent fund and miscellaneous sources, amounting in all to about eleven thousand dollars, is regularly expended, and furnishes a much need supplement to the state appropriation. This sum has increased very little in recent years, but the hope is entertained that, as Minnesota grows older, some of her people of wealth and culture will make liberal donations or bequests to aid the Minnesota Historical Society in promoting the scientific study of the past and in humanizing history.

SOLON J. BUCK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
St. Paul

## THE 1928 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The seventy-ninth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, held in St. Paul on January 9, was opened in the auditorium of the Historical Building at 10:00 A.M. with a session devoted to the eighth annual local history conference. Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the society, presided, and some thirty persons, representing eleven counties, were present.

Dr. Buck reviewed the progress of the county historical society movement and called special attention to the fact that of the eleven local societies in Minnesota, three were organized in 1927. The state society has coöperated in the organization of such societies, but it has not attempted to take the initiative, having preferred to follow the policy of letting the local people make the start.

Dr. Helen Hughes Hielscher, vice president of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, was then introduced and read a brief paper on the late Judge Lorin Cray of Mankato and his bequest of ten thousand dollars to the Blue Earth County society. Mr. W. H. Pay of Mankato, the president of that society, then raised the question of public support of local historical work, calling attention to the need in his own and other counties of adequate places for housing the collections of county societies; and Dr. Hielscher commented on the need of stimulating, especially among local officials, an interest in county history.

A valuable short paper was next read by Mr. John H. Darling of Duluth, a member of the board of governors of the St. Louis County Historical Society, giving a compact account of the effective organization of the work of that society under the leadership of its president, the Honorable William E. Culkin.

The next speaker was Mrs. A. C. Hinckley of Claremont, who told of "A State-wide Survey of Historic Sites and Markers in Minnesota," a project undertaken by the Daughters of the American Revolution in the state. This survey, substantially completed, has resulted in the preparation of a detailed catalogue or inventory of historic sites and monuments in Minnesota, accompanied by a map and a general sketch of Minnesota history, and it is expected that all this will soon be published by the national organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Olmsted County Historical Society, organized in 1926, was represented in the conference by Mr. Burt W. Eaton of Rochester, who spoke next, setting forth the need of adequate facilities for preserving and making available local historical records. Illustrative of such records, he said, is a set of bound volumes of a local Rochester newspaper covering a period of fifty years from 1858 in the possession of the city library. Though of great local historical value, this file has not received adequate care and has narrowly escaped destruction in recent years. Eventually, when a new court house is built, space will probably be available in it for the county historical society. Dr. Buck, commenting on the incident reported by Mr. Eaton, declared that the public libraries of the state seem to be neglecting the collection and preservation of local historical materials.

In the absence of a representative from the Otter Tail County Historical Society, Dr. Buck told of the organization and progress of that society, and the conference then took up for discussion the question of public support for county historical work. Attention was called to the fact that under the terms of a law enacted in 1923 St. Louis County is authorized to appropriate \$2,500 annually for the support of its historical society. The possibility of securing general legislative action that would permit appropriations by counties of money for the support of county historical work was then considered, and

after some discussion a motion was made and carried that a committee to take the matter in hand should be selected by the representatives of county historical societies present at the conference. Before closing the session, the chairman called upon Senator Victor Lawson of Willmar, who commended the action just taken and said that if history is worth making it is worth preserving.

The luncheon, held at the Lowry Hotel in St. Paul at 12:30 P.M., was attended by more than a hundred persons. The toastmaster was Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll, the president of the society, who introduced as the first speaker, Brigadier-general William C. Brown, U. S. A., Retired, of Denver, Colorado. General Brown read an extremely interesting paper entitled "On the Trail of the History of Traverse des Sioux."<sup>1</sup> The general was born at Traverse des Sioux in 1854 and lived there until he left for West Point in 1873. He has had a long and distinguished military career, his experience ranging from Indian campaigns in the West to the World War, but he has never lost his early interest in the story of the trading post on the Minnesota River. In his paper he first told of his childhood impressions of the post, where his father, an emigrant from Pittsburgh in 1854, had a general trading store. He then sketched the history of Traverse des Sioux, speaking especially of the early traders in the Minnesota Valley; the Long expedition of 1823; the explorations of the geologist, G. W. Featherstonhaugh, in 1835; George Catlin's visit in 1836; the surveys of Nicollet and Fremont in 1838; and the arrival at the post in 1845 of Captain E. V. Sumner and his dragoons from Fort Atkinson. General Brown then told of the careful search that he has made for historical materials relating to Traverse des Sioux — a search undertaken in order to aid Mr. Thomas Hughes of Mankato, who is writing a comprehensive history of the post. Among the valuable materials into which the general has delved are the Frank B. Mayer

<sup>1</sup> This paper is published in the *St. Peter Herald* for February 1.

sketches and diary from the period of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, the originals of which are in the possession of the Newberry Library of Chicago; and the invaluable Nicollet Papers in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress. General Brown continued with an account of some of the historical repositories in Washington, D. C., that he has found valuable for records pertaining to the West. These include the Library of Congress; the historical section of the Army War College; the Smithsonian Institution, where many of the Catlin paintings are to be found; the pension office; and the old records division of the adjutant-general's office. General Brown concluded by paying appropriate tribute to the regular army for its part in exploration, Indian wars, map making, and the general development of the West; and this tribute was made the more impressive because General Brown himself served for twenty-seven years under Captain E. V. Sumner, Jr., in the First United States Cavalry, that dragoon regiment which the elder Captain Sumner led to Minnesota in 1845.

Governor Theodore Christianson then brought the luncheon program to a close by reading an admirable address on "Backgrounds of Minnesota," which is brought before a larger audience by its publication in full in the present number of the magazine.

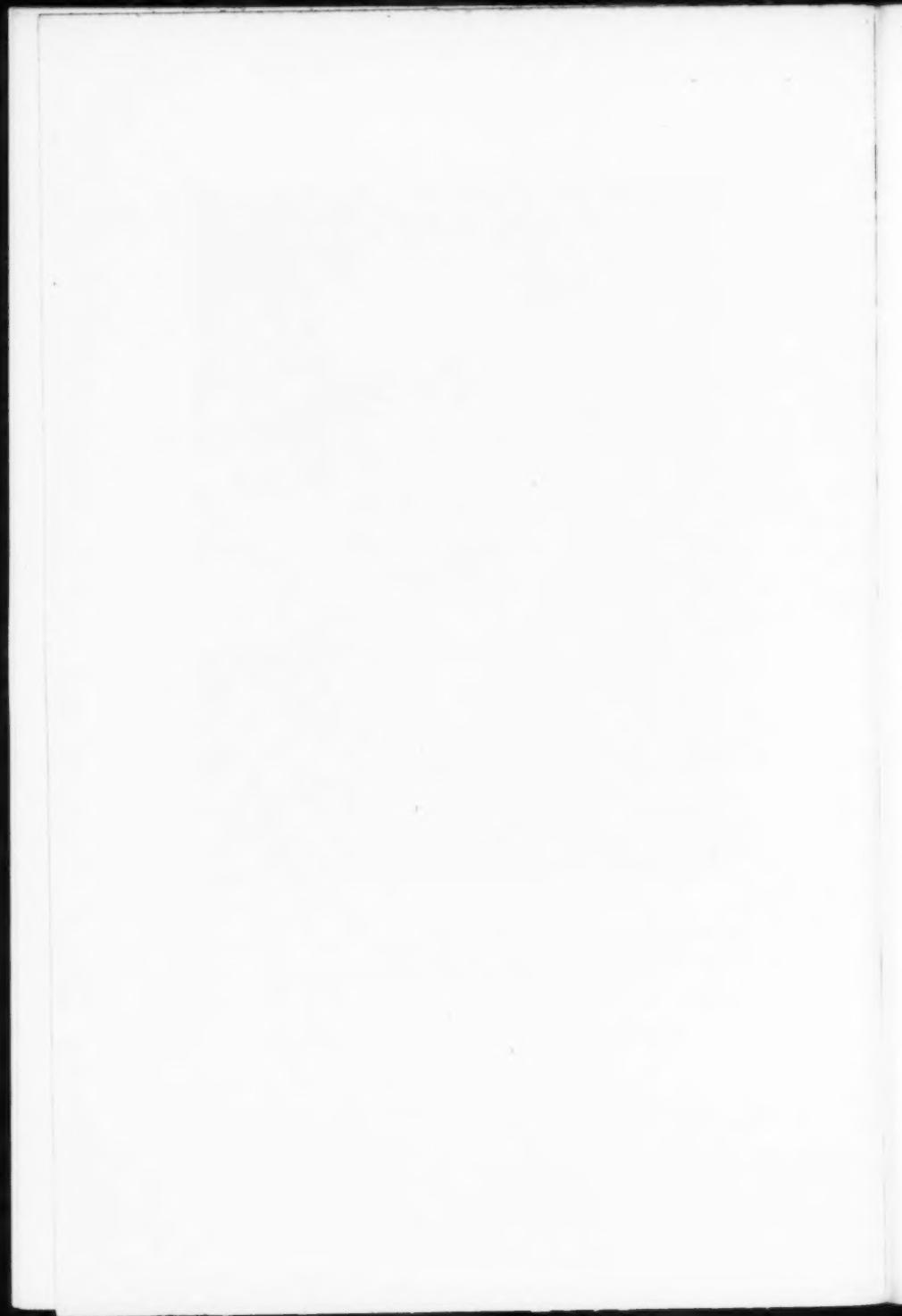
Mr. Ingersoll presided at the afternoon session, which convened at 3:00 P.M. in the auditorium of the Historical Building with about fifty persons present. The report of the treasurer, Mr. Everett H. Bailey, was read in his absence by Mr. William W. Cutler; and the superintendent presented his annual report, a survey of the society's activities in 1927, which is printed in this number of the magazine. Mr. William H. Lightner of St. Paul then read the following paper:

#### EDWARD B. YOUNG: A MEMORIAL

Edward Blake Young, first vice president of the Minnesota Historical Society, died at his home in St. Paul on May 25, 1927, after a brief illness. He had apparently been in good health until



Edward B. Young



shortly before his death, when he developed heart trouble from which he did not rally.

Mr. Young was born on January 14, 1864, at Newton, Massachusetts. He was the son of Edward James Young, professor of Oriental languages in the divinity school of Harvard University, and of Mary Clapp Blake Young of Worcester, Massachusetts. He entered Harvard University, from which he was graduated in 1885, *magna cum laude*. He was a member of the Hasty Pudding Club.

After his graduation he went to St. Paul in 1885 and studied law in the office of the firm of Young and Lightner, of which his uncle, the late George B. Young, one of the leaders of the Minnesota bar, was the senior member. He was admitted to the bar on October 14, 1887, and on January 1, 1892, became the junior member of the firm of Young and Lightner. Upon the death of his uncle he entered into partnership on December 30, 1906, with William H. Lightner under the firm name of Lightner and Young, and continued the practice of law at St. Paul until his death.

On August 31, 1909, Mr. Young married Violet Lee Dousman, daughter of Hercules L. Dousman, Jr., of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. They had one child, Mary Blake Young, who with her mother, survives him.

Mr. Young was a firm believer in the value of physical exercise, was an enthusiastic member of the Minnesota Boat Club, continued active in bicycling long after his friends had lost interest therein, and until the time of his death enjoyed some form of exercise.

He was a student of history, particularly of genealogy, and was for many years historian and registrar of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Minnesota.

During the World War, Mr. Young performed guard duty as a special deputy sheriff during a strike on the Twin City street railway, having charge of the East Broadway car depot. He was a member of the Civilian Auxiliary from December, 1917, through the time when it became a part of the Minnesota Home Guard in 1918, and until his battalion was mustered into the Minnesota National Guard. He was very active in the Liberty Loan and Red Cross drives and was an associate member of the legal advisory board for his district during the selective draft.

Probably nothing that Mr. Young did in his life gave him more satisfaction or better exhibited the fine traits of his character than his work in the Harvard Club of Minnesota. He was a member of its council and its vice president at the time of his death. For twelve years he was chairman of the scholarship committee, and through his untiring efforts the club succeeded in establish-

ing a permanent scholarship fund, which made it possible to award scholarships regularly instead of sporadically as at first. During 1927 three scholarships were awarded. The scholarships are open to all Minnesota boys, and all of the many who have been aided during the past twelve years have without exception made fine records while at college and later in whatever line of business or profession they have undertaken.

Mr. Young never sought or accepted public office, but for the protection of his country and the relief of the suffering and needy he was always ready to furnish his services. He was a member of the Minnesota Tyler Tornado Relief Commission, a director of the United Charities of St. Paul, a member of the charities and donations division of the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs, a trustee of the St. Paul Institute, a director of the Ramsey County Bar Association, and a member of the Minnesota and White Bear Yacht clubs. He was a faithful and devoted member of Unity Church of St. Paul, a trustee of the church, and superintendent of the Sunday school.

This brief review of his life's activities gives a good insight into his character. He was untiring in labors for others, whether of his own family and friends or his fellow citizens. He never complained and did not criticize others. It may safely be said that he had no enemies. He was an able lawyer and a sound and safe counselor.

Gifted with unswerving integrity, with a strong feeling of his responsibilities to his country, to his church, to his friends, and above all to his family, and with a most kindly disposition for all his fellow men, he led a model life and has left a lasting record of the life of a good citizen, a good friend, and a good father.

Two papers, both of which will appear in early numbers of the magazine, concluded the afternoon session: one entitled "Some Gaps in the History of the Northwest," by Mr. Joseph R. Starr, instructor in political science in the University of Minnesota; and the other on "Land Claim Associations and Frontier Democracy in Minnesota," by Dr. Charles J. Ritchey of St. Paul, professor of history in Macalester College.

The last session of the seventy-ninth annual meeting convened in the society's auditorium at 8:00 P.M., with Mrs. Charles E. Furness, first vice president of the society, presiding. Mrs. Furness introduced Dr. Clyde A. Duniway, professor of history in Carleton College, who gave the annual address

on the topic "Daniel Webster and the West." Following this able exposition of one aspect of Webster's place in American history, which is published elsewhere in this issue, a motion picture portraying scenes in the region of Lake Itasca was shown.

About ninety persons attended the evening session. At the close of the program they were invited to view a series of special exhibits in the museum, including a number of Webster letters, several constitutions of Minnesota land claim associations, a selection of fur-trade papers, and a number of photographic copies of sketches made by Frank B. Mayer at Traverse des Sioux in 1851.

T. C. B.

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Marketing of Farm Products: Studies in the Organization of the Twin Cities Market.* Edited by H. BRUCE PRICE, PH.D. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1927. xii, 435 p. Charts.)

A group of graduate students and present or former faculty members of the agricultural economics division of the college of agriculture of the University of Minnesota have collaborated on this book. It is intended to be a textbook for college classes in marketing. A series of chapters describe the method of marketing grain, livestock, fruits and vegetables, hay, potatoes, and butter. There are also chapters on the central public markets of the two cities, cold storage facilities, rural motor truck lines, and price-determination in the Twin City markets. With one exception they are descriptive or analytical in character, and but little effort is made to show historical development. The exception is the second chapter, written by Dr. Mildred Hartsough, entitled "The Development of the Twin Cities as a Market for Farm Products." This chapter follows in the main the lines of her book on *The Twin Cities as a Metropolitan Market* (Minneapolis, 1925). Readers of MINNESOTA HISTORY may be reminded also of Professor Gras's brilliant sketch of the same development in a recent number of this magazine, which gives the philosophy of the development while Dr. Hartsough presents the historical facts. Both writers regard the growth of the Twin City market as a fine example of the rise of metropolitan economy. Just as in the late medieval period, the towns drew to themselves the trade of the surrounding villages so as to form a larger economic unit than the more or less self-sufficient manor, so in our day the metropolis has drawn to itself the trade of surrounding towns to form still larger unified economic areas. Of such an area the metropolis is the dominating spirit. To it the products of the area come for sale and distribution to other areas, and from it the area receives the goods it buys from other regions. The

metropolis is therefore first of all a marketing center, and following that it develops as a center of wholesaling, transportation, storage, and finances. Dr. Hartsough pictures for us the growth of the Twin Cities along these lines from the time the first mills were built at the Falls of St. Anthony down to the present day. It is done in readable fashion and with very few slips.

The other chapters, while they contain little historical material, furnish a needed corrective to this theory, which perhaps implies a greater unity in the Twin City market than actually exists. There is after all no one market here, but rather as many markets as there are commodities. There is a tremendous difference in size between the area supplying milk to the Twin Cities and that from which their wheat supplies are drawn. There is just as great a variation in the dependence on the metropolis for financial assistance of agriculture and mining. Nevertheless, the concept is a fruitful and valuable one, for nothing else explains so much of our economic development and present-day economic relationships so fully and so well.

C. B. KUHLMANN

*Studies in American History, Inscribed to James Albert Woodburn, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor Emeritus of American History in Indiana University (Indiana University Studies, vol. 12, nos. 66-68). By Professor Woodburn's former students. (Bloomington, Indiana University, 1926. ix, 455 p. Portrait.)*

Of the fifteen studies in this volume written by former students of Professor Woodburn, three relate to subjects connected more or less directly with Minnesota history. The first of these is "The Fur Trade in the Maumee-Wabash Country" by Paul C. Phillips. It is an interesting example of the type of local study that needs to be written for every section of the continent before an adequate general history of the fur trade in North America can be even contemplated. Dr. Phillips stresses the period of extreme competition from 1834 to 1846 between the American Fur Company and the various firms of the Ewing brothers, but he places this struggle against its background of early French,

English, and American trading exploits in the valley and so, in brief compass, tells the early history of that region. Nor has he been content with published material. Most of his data have been derived from the outstanding collections of fur-traders' papers, particularly those of the American Fur Company in New York, Ottawa, and St. Louis, and of the Ewings in Indianapolis. These firms operated in the Minnesota region, and so any information concerning them has a value for the history of Minnesota.

Dr. James M. Callahan's paper is entitled "Americo-Canadian Relations Concerning Annexation, 1846-1871." As a considerable portion of it relates to western Canada, especially to the regions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, it seems a pity that such transcendently important papers as those of James W. Taylor should have been overlooked in its preparation. Other important material has not been included, such as A. K. Isbister's and John McLaughlin's letters and proposals; the reports of committees of the British parliament, especially that on the Hudson's Bay Company's charter of 1857; the petition of the half-breeds to the United States government at the close of 1845; and a wealth of material on the Riel rebellion and the Fenian disturbances. In general it must be stated that Dr. Callahan has not added a great deal to existing knowledge on this important topic.

"Some Inter-relationships in Canadian-American History" is an interesting comparison by Dr. Wilson P. Shortridge of the histories of the two countries. The difference between the effect of the Quebec Act on Canada and on the more southern colonies is remarked upon; the status of the Loyalists is discussed; and the parallel economic and constitutional development of the two countries is pointed out. Though by no means an exhaustive study of the subject, this short paper has merit in calling to the attention of Canadian and American students the folly of attempting to understand the history of the one country without a knowledge of the history of the other.

GRACE L. NUTE

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Since the activities of the society during 1927, including the quarter ending December 31, are surveyed by the superintendent in an article published elsewhere in the present number of the magazine, only a few supplementary items call for mention in the present section.

Seventeen additions to the active membership of the society were made during the quarter ending December 31, 1927. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

CHIPPEWA: A. P. Nelson of Maynard.

HENNEPIN: Lou N. McWhorter of Minneapolis.

MCLEOD: Dr. Howard C. Dressel of Silver Lake.

MEEKER: H. I. Peterson of Litchfield.

RAMSEY: Mrs. Elizabeth Dilley, John A. Doyle, Orrington C. Hall, Preston T. Jackson, Dr. Walter A. Ramsey, Mary Guest Smith, Charles T. Spear, Arthur S. Williamson, and Mrs. Edward B. Young, all of St. Paul.

ROSEAU: P. O. Fryklund of Roseau.

STEARNS: Marianne Clarke of St. Cloud.

STEVENS: Emmett H. Salmonson of Chokio.

NONRESIDENT: H. H. Larned of Lansing, Michigan.

Three local historical societies — those of Otter Tail, Rice, and Roseau counties — have recently become institutional members of the society.

The society lost eleven active members by death during the three months ending December 31: Richard Pfefferle of New Ulm, October 13; Elliot A. Knowlton of Rochester, October 13; Cephas D. Allin of Minneapolis, October 22; Charles H. Babcock of Maryhill, Washington, October 23; Mrs. Sampson R. Child of Minneapolis, November 14; William Rowe of St. Paul, November 16; the Right Reverend Patrick R. Heffron of Winona, November 23; Charles F. Konantz of Los Angeles, California, December 5; George Heaton of St. Paul, December 6;

Nathan Butler of Minneapolis, December 9; and Gideon S. Ives of St. Paul, December 20.

As usual, members of the staff have responded to a number of requests during the quarter for talks and papers relating to Minnesota history or the work of the society and allied subjects. Dr. Buck spoke before the Lynnhurst Study Club of Minneapolis on October 18 on the work of the society; and he discussed "Opportunities for Research in American History" at a meeting of a history and social studies club, Pi Gamma Mu, at Hamline University on November 4. Dr. Blegen spoke on "The Lure of Minnesota History" to the Parent-Teacher Association of the Murray Junior High School of St. Paul on October 18, and used the same subject for an illustrated talk given before the Booster Club of Springfield on November 15; he also spoke to the Symra Society of Decorah, Iowa, on November 18, taking as his subject "On the Trail of Norwegian-American Historical Records," and on the following day at the same place he addressed the students of Luther College on "Myth and History: The Tales of Paul Bunyan." On November 18 Mr. Babcock read a paper on "Museum Coöperation with Commercial Concerns" at the afternoon session of the Mid-west Museums Conference in St. Paul. Dr. Nute spoke on "Fur-trade Days in Minnesota" on October 7 at Winona before the social science group of the southeastern division of the Minnesota Education Association, and on November 17 in Minneapolis before the Minnesota chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists; and she addressed the Mendota chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in St. Paul on November 19 on "Pioneer Women in Minnesota."

#### ACCESSIONS

A large and important group of missionary letters has been secured in photostat form from the Senate files and the bureau of Indian affairs at Washington. It is from the period between 1830 and 1842 and consists chiefly of papers relating to mission schools in the Minnesota area that were supported in part by the federal government. Among the missionaries in charge of

such schools were Sherman Hall, Father Pierz, Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, Stephen R. Riggs, and George Copway.

From Lausanne, Switzerland, has been received the first installment of transcripts of the reports of two Swiss missionaries, Samuel Dentan and Daniel Gavin, who worked among the Sioux at Red Wing and in its vicinity for a decade after 1836. These copies have been made from a file of the exceedingly rare *Rapports de la societe des missions evangeliques de Lausanne*, beginning with the issue of June 11, 1835. The copying of the documents has been intrusted to Monsieur A. Grandjean, secretary of the *Mission romande*, whose book telling of the work of that organization is reviewed *ante*, 7: 280.

Attention is called in an earlier number of the magazine to the file owned by St. John's University at Collegeville of the rare *Berichte*, or reports, published annually by the Leopoldinen-Stiftung, a Viennese Catholic organization interested in the conversion of the American Indians (see *ante*, 7: 358). These reports include valuable letters relating to Catholic missions in northeastern Minnesota, and through the courtesy of St. John's University arrangements were made for copying this material. Recently, however, the society has acquired through a book dealer in Italy an incomplete file of the *Berichte* for the years from 1831 to 1900. For the period of greatest missionary activity among the Minnesota Indians, that from 1831 to 1865, only two issues, those for 1843 and 1864, are missing, and the first of these is included in the St. John's University file. Another incomplete file of the *Berichte* is at St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin.

Photostatic copies of seventeen items of Minnesota interest in the collection of Lucius Fairchild Papers in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin have been obtained from that institution. The items relate in the main to two topics: an overland journey undertaken by Mrs. Eliab B. Dean, Jr., in the winter of 1856 by sleigh from Superior to St. Paul; and the excursion in celebration of the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883.

Copies of baptismal records kept by three Catholic missionary priests, Fathers Baraga, Pierz, and Ravoux, have recently been acquired to supplement other similar records for the diocese of Dubuque (see *ante*, 8: 30 n.) and for the parish of St. Paul (see *ante*, 8: 195). The baptisms of Minnesota interest recorded by Father Baraga were made at Fond du Lac between 1835 and 1860; those by Father Pierz were made in the vicinity of Grand Portage and Fort William, where he was active as a missionary in the late thirties and early forties; and Father Ravoux' register lists baptisms and a few marriages among the Sioux from 1841 to 1844. The Baraga register is preserved at Bayfield, Wisconsin, and the other two are in the collection of the St. Paul Catholic Historical Society at the St. Paul Seminary.

An autobiographical sketch of Joseph R. Goiffon, a valiant Catholic priest who made a missionary trip in the Red River Valley in November, 1860, and was severely crippled as a result of exposure to extreme cold, has been copied for the society's files from the original in the possession of the St. Paul Catholic Historical Society at the St. Paul Seminary.

A photostatic copy of a diary kept by E. C. Jordan from May, 1870, to May, 1871, while in the construction service of the Northern Pacific Railway Company in the vicinity of Otter Tail City, has been obtained through the courtesy of that company, which has the original in its archives. The diary is of value for its picture of transcontinental railroad building and also for its record of local Otter Tail County events.

A collection of the records of the Sweetman Irish colony of Murray County has been presented by Mr. Walter Sweetman of St. Paul, formerly the business agent of the colony. This venture began in the early eighties, when Mr. John Sweetman, now of County Meath, Ireland, organized the Irish-American Colonization Company. The aim was to supply needy Irish families with the necessary capital for bettering themselves on western lands in the United States. Long periods of payment, easy terms, and selection of lands and erection of houses by the company characterized the scheme. Many settlers came and the

colony was established at Currie, but in the end this plan for aiding Irish settlers was a failure, largely because of the Irishman's predilection for city life. The records of the company, which were preserved until recently in a safe at Currie, cover the years from the inception of the scheme until 1909 and consist of three boxes of correspondence, agreements, and notes; and of twelve volumes of ledgers, daybooks, bank books, and the like.

Two manuscript volumes containing records of a relief committee that supervised aid given to sufferers from a violent storm in the vicinity of St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids on April 14, 1866, have been presented, together with a number of pictures, scrapbooks, and other items, by Mrs. Channing Seabury of St. Paul, whose husband was the secretary of the committee.

The World War letters and diary of Lieutenant Granville Gutterson, a member of the aviation corps stationed during the greater part of the war at the San Leon Gunnery School in Texas, have been presented by his mother, Mrs. Gilbert Gutterson of St. Paul. Most of the material comprising these manuscripts was published in 1919 in *Granville: Tales and Tail Spins from a Flyer's Diary*, a book reviewed in this magazine, *ante*, 3: 219. With the papers Mrs. Gutterson has also presented a scrapbook containing clippings, pictures, and other material about her son; and a number of other letters and papers relating to his career.

An interesting collection of Chippewa medicine dance materials found in a cache on the east shore of Crane Lake in St. Louis County has been presented by Mr. Alfred E. Hill, Dr. W. C. McMurtry, and Mr. Luke F. Burns of Virginia. It includes three large bark scrolls, a number of water drums, a rattle, several packages of medicine, some dance regalia, and shells.

Recent gifts of museum objects illustrative of domestic life include a collection of toys, dolls, doll clothing, and furniture of the period around 1860, a glass whale-oil lamp, and various other items, received from the estate of the late Miss Ella A. Whitney of Minneapolis through the courtesy of her sister, Mrs. Horace A. Clifford of St. Paul; a pair of hand-knitted lace-stitch

cotton stockings, from Mrs. C. Bainbridge Fitzpatrick of Clearwater, Florida, through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles Bechhoefer of St. Paul; the first electric bell installed in a Minnesota home, from Mr. Vernon Bell of Minneapolis; and a full-size buffalo robe, from Mr. David W. Morison of St. Paul.

To the society's collection of old tools have been added a brace and bit and three tongue and groove planes, gifts of Mr. Lynn S. Bryant of Minneapolis.

A collection of surgical instruments that originally belonged to Dr. E. J. Lewis of Sauk Center has been presented by Dr. A. F. Moynihan of that city. It includes lancets, pincers, a hook, and a pair of testing spectacle frames.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

Practical problems of special interest to museum workers are discussed in great detail in a newly published *Manual for Small Museums* by Laurence V. Coleman (New York, 1927. 395 p.). Among the subjects considered are the field and purpose of small museums, problems of organization and administration, curatorial and educational work, research, and building. Though not all museum experts will agree on specific methods of procedure, a book of this type should prove of great suggestive value to "those who set about to found museums or to build up small museums now existing."

Few have written so discerningly of the historical problems involved in biographical studies of Washington as Dr. Joseph Schafer, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. In the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December he discusses "Washington and his Biographers," pointing out that the use made of the Washington diaries by some of his biographers "is in effect to caricature Washington, for the reason that the diaries are in no sense a mirror reflecting his true lineaments." The diaries "were primarily memoranda—records of items of which the writer would need to remind himself."

The rivalry of two fur-traders who had their headquarters at Prairie du Chien early in the nineteenth century, Michael Brisbois and Joseph Rolette, is described in an article in the magazine section of the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 13. Among the illustrations is a picture of Brisbois' grave overlooking the present city of Prairie du Chien and the Mississippi Valley.

In *A Man Unafraid: The Story of John Charles Fremont*, by Herbert Bashford and Harr Wagner (San Francisco, 1927. 406 p.), a few pages are devoted to a sketchy account of Fremont's association in the thirties with Nicollet in his exploration of the Minnesota region.

An account of the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad from St. Paul by way of Brainerd to Bismarck, North Dakota, is published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 24. The occasion for the article was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of train service on the line, which marked the "first important step in the Northern Pacific's extension from St. Paul to the Pacific coast."

*Immigrant Backgrounds*, edited by Henry P. Fairchild (New York, 1927. 269 p.), contains a series of brief sketches by different writers of the English, the Germans, the Scandinavians, the Irish, the Jews, and various other peoples designed to aid the student of the American population to understand its racial and cultural backgrounds. The point of view is sociological, and there is little attempt to explain historically the complex forces that brought about the great migration from Europe in the nineteenth century.

*Dansk-Amerikansk Historie* by Thomas P. Christenson (Cedar Falls, Iowa, 1927. 193 p.) is a valuable condensed account both of Danish immigration to the United States and of the activities of the Danes in America. Two chapters deal with the backgrounds of Danish immigration before and after 1850, and in other chapters attention is given to such subjects as Danish settlements, churches, societies, schools, newspapers, and literature. There are also accounts of the Danes in Canada and in Argentina.

At the annual meeting of the Swedish Historical Society of America, held in the Historical Building, St. Paul, on November 18, the Reverend Charles V. Bowman of Chicago spoke on the "History of Ansgarius College," and Dr. Conrad Peterson of St. Peter described some of the recent additions to the society's library.

Under the title "Milwaukee to St. Paul in 1855" a series of travel letters by General Rufus King that first appeared in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* in August, 1855, are reprinted in the December number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. They present a vivid description of the overland journey from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien and of the river trip on the "War Eagle" to

St. Paul. General King offered a number of shrewd comments on conditions in Minnesota. Of St. Anthony and its water power he wrote, "It needs but the magic word of capital to turn this power to good account and make St. Anthony the Lowell of the Northwest." St. Paul, he recorded, "wore to me the air of a town which had grown too fast for the region round about it, and is now standing still, waiting for the country to catch up." In the same number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* publication is begun of "Pioneer and Political Reminiscences" by Nils P. Haugen, a prominent Wisconsin politician. The first installment tells interestingly of the author's emigration from Norway in 1854 and his Wisconsin experience up to 1866, including lumber rafting on the St. Croix and the Mississippi rivers.

A bibliography by David C. Mott of Iowa newspapers established from 1836 to 1860 is published in the *Annals of Iowa* for January. The papers are listed under counties and data are given about each item. Files owned by the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa at Des Moines are located, but no attempt is made to indicate where other files are to be found or whether files not preserved at Des Moines are in other Iowa collections.

The increase of interest in "Canadian History in the Universities of the United States" is the subject of an article by Professor Reginald G. Trotter in the *Canadian Historical Review* for September.

A compact presentation of a subject of interest to all students of American-Canadian relations is furnished in *The Growth of Canadian National Feeling* by W. Stewart Wallace (Toronto, 1927. 85 p.).

In an article entitled "A Playground for Nations," published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 27, Mr. Arthur Hawkes proposes that "Canada and United States unite in making Rainy Lake region outdoor museum of exploration and happy hunting ground for two nations." The park would embrace much of the boundary region between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods, but the writer has "taken Lake La Croix as a typical

feature of the boundary itself" and "David Thompson as the explorer whose work is most intimately connected with this territory." The author tells also of the establishment of the Superior National Forest and of the Minnesota and Canadian forest reserves in this region.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A high school essay contest on the subject "My Home Town" is being conducted by the League of Minnesota Municipalities, the prizes for the four best essays being respectively \$40.00, \$25.00, \$20.00, and \$15.00. The winning papers will be published in *Minnesota Municipalities*, the monthly magazine issued by the league. The judges are Dr. William Anderson, professor of political science in the University of Minnesota, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Mr. Harvey Walker, acting executive secretary of the league. The contest ends on February 29.

A biography of Governor Alexander Ramsey by Martin W. Odland was published in installments in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune* from September 25 to December 4. A review of the series, which is expected to be brought out in book form in the near future, will appear in a later number of the magazine.

Plans for a celebration at Minneapolis in 1930 of the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony, when "it is hoped to unveil a statue to Father Hennepin," are discussed in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 11.

Among the speakers at a "rally" arranged by the Kensington Runestone Foundation at Alexandria on November 29 were the owner of the famous stone and most active defender of its authenticity, Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand, and Governor A. G. Sorlie of North Dakota, the Reverend J. A. O. Stub of Minneapolis, and Senator Victor Lawson of Willmar. A prominent feature of the rally was the exhibition of the rune stone itself. According to press reports the meeting had for its purpose the raising of

funds for a park and monument on the site where the inscribed stone was found.

Around a familiar Minnesota Indian legend, Mr. Perry Williams of Minneapolis has woven the libretto of an opera entitled "Winona," the music for which has been composed by Alberto Bimboni. Much of the music is based upon native Indian themes recorded by Miss Frances Densmore of Red Wing. The first performance of the opera was given at the Minneapolis Auditorium on January 27.

The "part that the pioneer women of Minnesota have taken in the development of the state" is touched upon by Mrs. Mary D. Akers in an article published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 18. Among the women that she tells about are Mrs. William Colvill, wife of the Civil war hero; Margaret E. Huntington, the educator; and Lydia P. Williams, a leader in women's club work. She also gives some interesting recollections of life in the Midway district of St. Paul in the late eighties, when she first lived there.

A Foundation Day program at St. Olaf College on November 4 marked the fifty-third anniversary of the founding of the school.

The process by which the public buildings of Minnesota Territory were divided among St. Paul, Stillwater, and St. Anthony, and especially by which the latter place secured the university, is reviewed by Dr. William W. Folwell in an article based upon sources and published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 23. "St. Paul was named in the organic act creating the territory as temporary capital; Stillwater, bigger than St. Anthony, claimed the prison, which St. Anthony did not want, and St. Anthony took the university," writes Dr. Folwell. He goes on to explain, however, that this arrangement "was not final," and he gives the details of the proceedings relating to the university in the constitutional conventions of 1857.

*Some Judges and Lawyers I Have Known* (39 p.) is the title of an interesting pamphlet by George N. Hillman, who since 1875 has been an official district court reporter in St. Paul. The rem-

iniscences, presented originally in an address before the Ramsey County Bar Association, are of value for their personal estimates of scores of prominent Minnesotans.

The career of Judge James H. Quinn, who retired from the Minnesota supreme court on January 1 after forty-one years of public service in Minnesota, is outlined by Fred S. Heaberlin in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for December 25. Of special interest is the account of the emigration of the Quinn family from Wisconsin in a covered wagon to a Blue Earth County farm in 1863, when Judge Quinn was six years old.

In an address before the American Railway Building and Bridge Association in Minneapolis on October 19, Mr. Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern Railroad, outlined the history of the stone arch railway bridge across the Mississippi at the Falls of St. Anthony, which was built in 1882 and 1883 by the Minneapolis Union Railway. This bridge, Mr. Budd declared, "is the oldest main line railroad bridge in the Northwest and, with the exception of the Eads bridge at St. Louis, it is the oldest railroad bridge over the Mississippi river in existence and the only stone arch bridge across the river anywhere."

The tiny sidewheelers that carried produce and settlers up and down the Minnesota River in the fifties and sixties are recalled by Captain Fred A. Bill of St. Paul in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 3.

An account of the services of Captain George Hopkins, who has had fifty years experience on Lake Minnetonka steamboats, is published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 28.

The history of a Vermilion Range mine from 1888 to the present is related in an article entitled "Zenith Iron Mine Tried the Souls of F. Rockefeller and Jas. Corrigan," published in *Skillings' Mining Review* for November 26. The *Ely Miner* of December 2 reprints the account and publishes also a picture of the "beginning of the Zenith Mine in 1888."

The history of the three great Minnesota iron ranges, the Vermilion, the Cuyuna, and the Mesabi, is briefly outlined in the *Aurora News* for December 29.

## LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The part played by women in the early history of Bemidji is emphasized in a sketch by Mrs. F. S. Arnold, published in the "Women's Edition" of the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer* on November 26.

An interesting phase of the local history of Minnesota is the rivalry of villages. A case of this sort, involving Benton and the railroad village of Cologne, is described in the *Waconia Patriot* for December 8.

Historical accounts of Gotha, a "cross roads center in the northeastern part of Hancock township, Carver County," and of the St. Thomas parish and church and the surrounding Irish settlement appear in the *Belle Plaine Herald* for October 13 and December 8 and 15.

A monument commemorating fifty pioneers of the Georgetown community in Clay County was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies at that town on October 2. It was erected and presented to the community by the local Mothers and Daughters' Club.

The story of the division of Beltrami County and the organization of Clearwater County from a portion of the territory is set forth by John H. Sommervold, the first superintendent of schools in the newer county, in the *Farmers Independent* of Bagley for December 15.

A sketch of the early history of Douglas County, originally prepared by George A. Freudreich for presentation at Alexandria on July 4, 1876, and published in the *Alexandria Post* for July 7 of that year, is reprinted in the *Alexandria Citizen News* for October 20, 1927. In the same paper for October 13 is a history of the West Moe Lutheran Church, which celebrated its sixtieth anniversary on September 18.

Most of a twenty-four page section of the *Albert Lea Evening Tribune* for December 15 is given over to articles on local history, including the account by Colonel Albert Miller Lea of his adventures with the First United States Dragoons in the southern Min-

nesota region in 1835. This Lea narrative was written in 1890 and first appeared in the *Iowa Historical Record* for October of that year. Among other historical narratives presented in the *Evening Tribune* are a history of the coöperative creamery at Clark's Grove, by the Reverend A. W. Warren; an account of the experiences of Mr. Paul E. Oppegard, a Norwegian immigrant of 1868; and the story of the development of the local branch of the American Railroad Express.

"Recollections of Wastedo" is the title of an article in the *Cannon Falls Beacon* of December 16 by Mrs. Frank Ellsworth, who settled there with her parents in the spring of 1862 after a journey in an emigrant wagon from Macomb, Illinois. "There were eight Illinois families who came to Wastedo with the intention of buying and making their future homes," writes Mrs. Ellsworth, "but one or two Minnesota winters were enough for them, and six of them went back."

The origin and development of the Sharon Coöperative Creamery Association, which has been built up by a group of Sharon Township farmers, are set forth in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* for November 30. The article is one of a series of local history sketches that are appearing in that paper.

Reminiscences of experiences in the Danish settlement near Tyler are presented in "Minder og Oplevelser fra mine første Aar i Amerika" by Dorthea Stevns, in *Julegrangen* for 1927 (Cedar Falls, Iowa).

Members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Fergus Falls celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on November 23 and 24. A history of the church, based upon the recollections of Mr. Lars P. Holmquist, a charter member, is published in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for November 18.

A paper on the history of the old Nutting House at Faribault, which was read by Mr. Einar O. Hammer at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society on October 24, is published in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 27 and 28.

Among the articles recently published by the *Shakopee Argus-Tribune* in a series of local history sketches are an account of "Shakopee's First Railroad Train," which steamed up the Minnesota Valley on November 11, 1865, October 20; descriptions of some baseball games of the nineties, as recalled by Mr. Anton Mayer, November 17; and an account of the early activities of the Shakopee city council, based upon its record book, December 29.

The development of transportation in the vicinity of St. Cloud is dealt with in an "appreciation edition" of the *Daily Journal-Press* of that city issued on November 26 and "dedicated to the Great Northern Railway." There is an account of the Red River cart trade that passed through St. Cloud, and the Reverend E. V. Campbell tells of a trip by stagecoach in 1864 from Anoka to St. Cloud. One article describes the beginning of passenger traffic between St. Cloud and the Twin Cities on September 1, 1866; and others tell of the building of the lines between St. Cloud and Osseo and St. Cloud and Willmar in 1882 and 1886. A number of reminiscent narratives by veteran railway men add to the interest of the edition.

A valuable history of Benson by Dr. C. L. Scofield was brought out in the *Swift County Monitor* for June 24, 1927. The author evidently gathered his materials very carefully and he deals comprehensively with the story of the settlement of the region and with the conditions of pioneer life.

The price of wheat from year to year seems to be of primary interest to the writer of a narrative on "Lake City in the Early Days," which has been appearing in installments in the *Wabasha County Leader* of Lake City since November 4. The sections printed on December 16 and 23 include also a good history of the Lake City ferry on Lake Pepin, which was run from time to time "with the view of drawing trade from the lake villages and the territory contiguous thereto on the Wisconsin shore."

A mass of historical information about Wadena and its vicinity is to be found in the fiftieth anniversary edition of the *Wadena*

*Pioneer Journal*, issued on December 15. Sketches of pioneer schools, of churches, of banks and bankers, of medical practice, of local creameries, and of the community's political history are supplemented by hundreds of items reprinted from the early files of the paper and arranged chronologically. Among articles of special interest may be noted accounts of the successful fight of Wadena for the county seat in 1856, of the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the seventies, of the Furness Colony, a settlement project sponsored by that road, and of the "historic Otter Tail trail." This trail is identical with the easternmost of the Red River trails, which passed through Wadena County. Its route is traced in careful detail in this article; though the trail has for the most part been obliterated by the plow, a short stretch of it on a certain bit of pasture land is declared to be much as it was in the years when the trail was in use. The article closes with the suggestion that "markers be placed now to designate the course of the Otter Tail trail across Wadena county, while there are people still living who know its exact location." Such a project would be an appropriate one for a county historical society to undertake. Possibly the interest in local history that has recently been evidenced in Wadena county may lead to the organization of such a society.

A "Fiftieth Anniversary Edition" of the *Waseca Herald* issued on October 6 features an "Early History of Waseca County," from the coming of the first settler in 1854. It includes also a brief history of the *Herald*, followed by a chronology based upon the files of the newspaper. A facsimile reproduction of an early issue of the *Herald* and portraits of its publishers and of pioneer residents of Waseca County illustrate the number.

A tablet commemorating the work of Dr. Howard H. Russell, founder of the Anti-saloon League of America, was dedicated on the site of his birthplace in Stillwater on October 23.

Recollections of Champlin by Mr. O. S. Miller, who has lived there since 1854, are published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 2. He recounts an interesting tale of the Sioux War, when refugees from the Minnesota Valley gathered in the hotel owned by his father and lived for at least one day on a barrel of crackers.

Under the title "Yesterdays and Todays of State Federated Clubs," sketches of more than a hundred Minneapolis women's clubs by Mrs. John P. Coan, historian of the fifth district of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, are appearing serially in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal*. A general introduction to the series, sketching the backgrounds of Minneapolis club work, by Mrs. Cyrus W. Wells, is printed on December 11; and accounts of the Tuesday Club, the city's oldest women's organization, begun in 1873, the Coterie, Alternates, and the Current Events and Literary Society appear on December 18 and 25.

Old-fashioned costumes and furnishings were displayed at the store of John W. Thomas and Company during the week of October 3 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of its establishment in Minneapolis. A history of the store, which was opened by G. W. Hale in 1867, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 2.

The professional experiences of a young lawyer and a youthful doctor and the social life they enjoyed in Minneapolis sixty years ago are described in an article about the arrival in that city of Dr. H. H. Kimball and Thomas Lowry in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 16. The pair met in Chicago, according to this account, traveled to St. Paul by rail and boat, and walked with their luggage to the suspension bridge, where the "young physician and the newly graduated attorney regretfully deposited their eight cents toll and tramped across to the infant city of Minneapolis."

Minneapolis skyscrapers built since 1885, when the first structure of that class, the eight-story Temple Court Building, was erected, are listed in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 23.

"On November 5, 1852, Minneapolis was publicly suggested for the first time as a name for the baby settlement that grew up to be the metropolitan center of the northwest," states a writer in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 4. In addition to the article, which tells in detail how the city got its name, there is reproduced in facsimile a portion of the *St. Anthony Express* for November 5, 1852, showing a letter by an anonymous writer — supposedly Charles Hoag — in which the name "Minnehapolis" was originally proposed.

With a celebration and special services extending over a period of three weeks, from October 30 to November 20, members of the Park Avenue Congregational Church of Minneapolis observed its sixtieth anniversary. A history of the church, which began as a mission of Plymouth Congregational Church, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 28.

An account of the founding of St. Petri Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, which celebrated its fortieth anniversary on October 16, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 14.

The Right Reverend Humphrey Moynihan of St. Paul Seminary preached on the history of the Church of the Incarnation of Minneapolis at special services on October 2 marking the eighteenth anniversary of its founding and the fifty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of its pastor, the Reverend James M. Cleary.

Members of the congregation of St. Paul's Swedish Lutheran Church of Minneapolis celebrated its fortieth anniversary on October 30 and November 1, 2, and 3.

The work of the Gospel Mission of Minneapolis during the forty years since it was founded by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petran is reviewed in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 2.

Mr. Frank Wing, the cartoonist, is the author of a little book entitled *We Present: A Collection of Seventy-five Sketches of Saint Paul Citizens*. Each sketch is accompanied by a page of more or less facetious comments by the artist, who proves himself a shrewd delineator both with pencil and with pen.

A pioneer real estate dealer of St. Paul, Mr. Robert Lewis, who retired recently from active business life, recalls some of his experiences in early St. Paul in an article published with his portrait in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 6.

A reproduction of the first page of the initial number of the *West Saint Paul Times*, printed on January 1, 1887, appears in the fortieth anniversary edition of the paper issued on December 31. Among the articles in this issue are histories of the paper, of the Riverview Commercial Club, and of the schools and churches of the neighborhood.

